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PDI man in Hollywood thrilled as Mick Jagger calls him by name

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PCGG flip-flops: No compromise deal with Danding

■ METRO / A24

Truckers protest, block roads to North Luzon Expressway

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Friday, February 10, 2006 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 64 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Palace moves toward reconciliation with Erap

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Nikko Dizon

MALACAÑANG APPEARS TO BE GEARING UP to torpedo any looming opposition effort to form a united front in its continuing campaign to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor yesterday said he would resume his role as a "bridge" to deposed President Joseph Estrada.

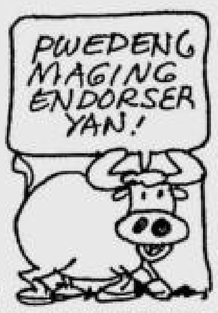
PALACE/ A8

Court allows shoe lady to travel to HK

THE "QUEEN OF SHOES" Imelda Marcos met with the governor of the Northern Mariana Islands, who wants the world's largest shoe manufacturer based in Hong Kong to build a factory on Saipan.

She had lunch with

COURT/ A22


PWEDENG MAGING ENDORSER YAN!

Gore: Earth is now at risk, let's save it

THE MAN WHO WOULD BE PRESIDENT OF THE US. Former Vice President Al Gore arrives on his first-ever visit to the country Thursday to speak on global warming and the environment at the invitation of the AY (Alfonso Yuchengco) Foundation. The author of "Earth in Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit," Gore is a fierce proponent of environmental protection. ROGER MARGALLO

2M need relocation if Manila Bay overflows

By Daxim L. Lucas

WARNING THAT THE world will reach the "tipping point" toward an ecological catastrophe within the next 10 years, former US Vice President Al Gore urged international and local leaders to focus their efforts toward halting the phenomenon of global warming.

Gore flew to Manila yesterday to address a group of several hundred political and business leaders as well as members of the diplomatic corps at the RCBC Plaza in Makati City on the dangers of neglecting the environment.

"We should be worried about threats like terrorism, but we should also be worried about other more important threats like the destruction of the environment," he told the group which included former President Fidel V. Ramos and several senators and congressmen.

President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived and exchanged pleasantries with Gore but left before his presentation.

Gore served as vice president under former US President Bill Clinton from 1992 to 2000, using his post to advocate major scientific initiatives and environmental issues.

The standing-room only audience at the Carlos P. Romulo auditorium listened in rapt attention as Gore gave a science

GORE/ A21

S&P upbeat on RP debt but Moody's pessimistic

By Doris C. Dumlao

STANDARD & POOR'S thinks the glass is half full, but Moody's Investor Service insists it's half empty.

Both international ratings agencies yesterday differed on their outlooks on the credit rating of the Philippine government. Standard & Poor's revised its outlook on Philippine debt to stable from negative, but Moody's retained its negative outlook.

Standard & Poor's said its assessment of Philippine foreign debt—currently at three notches below investment grade Bt—could further improve if government revenues further grew and fiscal reforms deepened.

With its negative outlook, however, Moody's said its rating of Philippine foreign debt four notches below investment grade may further be downgraded in the near term.

The lower the investment grade on a debt paper, the higher the interest rate creditors will charge due to the higher risk involved. A lower credit rating also reflects lower investor confidence in a particular government.

After raising the value-added tax (VAT) to 12 percent from 10 percent this month, the Arroyo administration is hoping that the international rating agencies would revise their outlook on the Philippines to stable. Standard

S&P UPBEAT/ A21

Pasig gov't, cops not off the hook

By Armand N. Nocum and DJ Yap

THE PASIG CITY GOVERNMENT UNDER Mayor Vicente Eusebio and its police force are not yet free of liability in the Feb. 4 stampede that killed 74 people and injured hundreds more, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Gonzalez said the second team of investigators under Senior State Prosecutor Joselito Mendoza might "expand" the number of people who could be charged with reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple physical injuries.

"At this point, nobody is being cleared or being positively identified as indictable," said Gonzalez, who added he had instructed the new panel to submit its findings in 10 days.

In his directive forming the panel, Gonzalez said Department of Justice prosecutors would determine whether a preliminary investigation should proceed "on the basis of

PASIG/ A6

Lawmakers defer scrapping of VFA

By Philip C. Tubeza

A PHILIPPINE CONGRESSIONAL COMmittee yesterday announced that it would defer its move to scrap the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and give the US six months to resolve a dispute over custody of four American Marines accused of rape.

The committee visited the accused servicemen at the US Embassy and received assurances that a diplomatic solution would be hammered out.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, cochair of the Legislative Oversight Committee on the VFA (Lovfa), said Paul W. Jones, acting US ambassador, gave her assurances that the Marines would not leave the Philippines while the rape case was being tried.

Santiago said that the US official also agreed that the entire VFA be renegotiated, but only after the trial was over. She said Jones told her that the Americans were now willing to hold talks with Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo.

"I said maybe they were just giving an excuse and would drag this on again with custody remaining with them while we wait for nothing. *Hindi naman daw* (not so, they said)," Santiago said.

She said that Jones promised that he would immediately report to Washington "so even while we are now talking, there are inter-departmental agency meetings in the Department of State about our request for custody," she said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs sent a note verbale to the US Embassy on Jan. 17, insisting that the servicemen be turned over to the Philippines. The four were accused of raping a 22-year-old Filipino last Nov. 1 while they were on furlough at the Subic Bay Freeport after participating in counterterrorist exercises in the Philippines.

DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said yesterday: "We have requested the embassy to resume talks but we have not received a reply yet."

Asuque said only "informal conversations" had taken place. He said that the US diplomats had maintained that they were still awaiting Washington's decision.

Asuque deferred comment when asked what could be the implications of the six-month deadline given by the

LAWMAKERS/ A22

EO 464 FUROR

Senate threatens to cite Cabinet men for contempt

By TJ Burgonio Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

THE SENATE IS THREATENING to cite for contempt Cabinet members who snub hearings on the proposed P1.05-trillion national budget for 2006.

"Rather than express umbrage alone, if these Cabinet officials do not want to come down here, they should be held in contempt," Sen. Richard Gordon said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and officials of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) did not show up at the Senate hearing on their 2006 budgets on Wednesday, invoking Executive Order No. 464.

The EO bars officials of the executive branch from attending congressional hearings without a go-signal from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

It was the first time Palace executives invoked the order to avoid a grilling at the budget hearings.

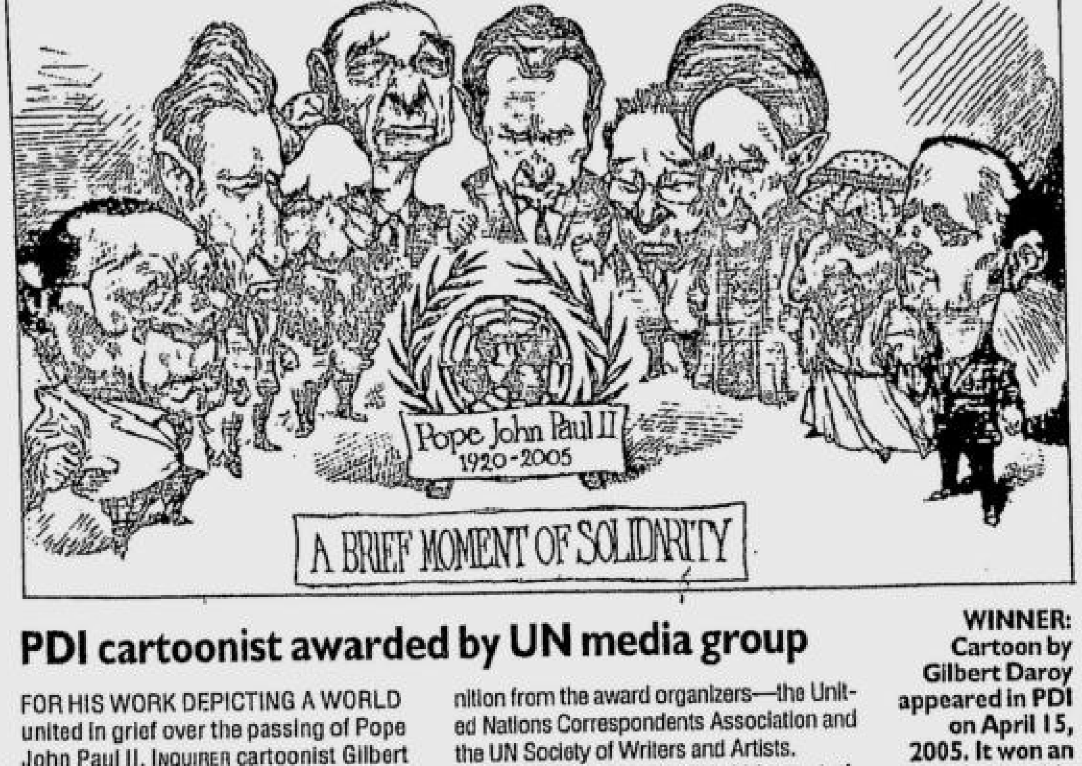
Malacañang officials countered that the President's political foes were trying to use the hearings to revive allegations against her.

With the Senate not backing down, the Palace appears to be relenting. It has issued a new directive that allows officials of the executive branch to attend the Senate budget hearings only after the House of Representatives shall have approved the budget measure.

"From what I know, the directive is to effect EO No. 464 and that this will (only be lifted) after the House has officially relayed the budget to the Senate," Presidential Chief of Staff Mike Defensor said.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said his discussions with legislators indicated the budget would

SENATE/ A21


Pope John Paul II
1920-2005
A BRIEF MOMENT OF SOLIDARITY

PDI cartoonist awarded by UN media group

FOR HIS WORK DEPICTING A WORLD united in grief over the passing of Pope John Paul II, INQUIRER cartoonist Gilbert Daroy has received an honorable mention citation at the prestigious 2005 Ranan Lurie Political Cartoon Awards.

Daroy, who shares editorial cartoon duties with veteran cartoonist Jess Abrera at the INQUIRER, received a certificate of recognition from the award organizers—the United Nations Correspondents Association and the UN Society of Writers and Artists.

His cartoon, titled "A Brief Moment of Solidarity," was published in the April 15, 2005, issue of the INQUIRER. It feaured world leaders gathered around the UN logo after John Paul's death.

PDI CARTOONIST/ A21

WINNER: Cartoon by Gilbert Daroy appeared in PDI on April 15, 2005. It won an honorable mention from the New York-based Lurie Political Cartoon Awards.

New DILG secretary's priority: Cha-cha

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS OF newly appointed Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno is to push for Charter change.

Instead of fighting crime, Puno's first official act yesterday, or so it seemed, was to lead President Macapagal-Arroyo's party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), in kicking off a signature campaign endorsing Cha-cha.

At a press conference in Quezon City, Puno, a member of the House of Representatives before he was named interior secretary, announced that the 34-member Kampi would gather 195 signatures in both chambers of Congress in endorsement of a constituent assembly as the mode for changing the Constitution.

The other modes are a people's initiative and a constitutional convention whose members are elected by the voters.

Puno's announcement comes a month after the ruling Lakas national directorate meeting where President Macapagal-Ar-

NEW DILG/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Rains will be widespread over Central and Eastern Visayas and Northern Mindanao. Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/02/10/06

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'NO SUCH THING'

No deal with Danding–PCGG

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE HEAD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMmission on Good Government was just being perverse when he refused to answer questions from senators intent on uncovering a supposed compromise deal being hatched with controversial businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. on the sequestered shares of the San Miguel Corp.

"There's no such thing (a compromise agreement). I just did not want to answer because they were violating the law by forcing me to answer," said PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio.

"I did not want to answer in principle," he said.

Sabio so angered the senators during the budget hearings that they gave the PCGG a token P1 budget for 2006.

The PCGG chief stubbornly kept mum as senators shot questions at him about the deal and President Macapagal-Arroyo's supposed part in it.

He invoked a provision in Executive Order No. 1 issued by President Aquino in 1986 which created the PCGG, which said that no PCGG official would be required to testify in any judicial, legislative or administrative proceeding concerning matters within its "official cognizance."

Compromise agreement

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita earlier disclaimed any Palace knowledge of the compromise agreement allegedly being hatched by Sabio with Cojuangco to settle the dispute over the ownership of San Miguel, the country's largest manufacturing concern.

In several coco levy cases still pending with the Sandiganbayan antigraft court and the Supreme Court, the government is claiming a 27 percent stake in San Miguel which Cojuangco allegedly bought with coco levy funds. It is also contesting Cojuangco's claim to another 20 percent block of San Miguel shares.

The PCGG sequestered the 47 percent block of San Miguel shares after the Edsa people power revolution of 1986 which toppled the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, claiming they were part of the ill-gotten assets of Marcos and his cronies.

The coco levy funds came from a forced tax imposed on coconut farmers by the dictator in the 1970s. Marcos appointed his crony, Cojuangco, to administer the funds.

But while there was no compromise agreement to speak of yet, Sabio said he was not averse to a settlement of the San Miguel shares ownership issue and if possible to finally resolve it within the year.

But he stressed that he and the PCGG would leave the settlement of the issue to the coconut farmers groups and Cojuangco.

"The real issue here is whether the terms and conditions are grossly disadvantageous to farmers. We can only decide on that if they submit the agreement to us," said Sabio.

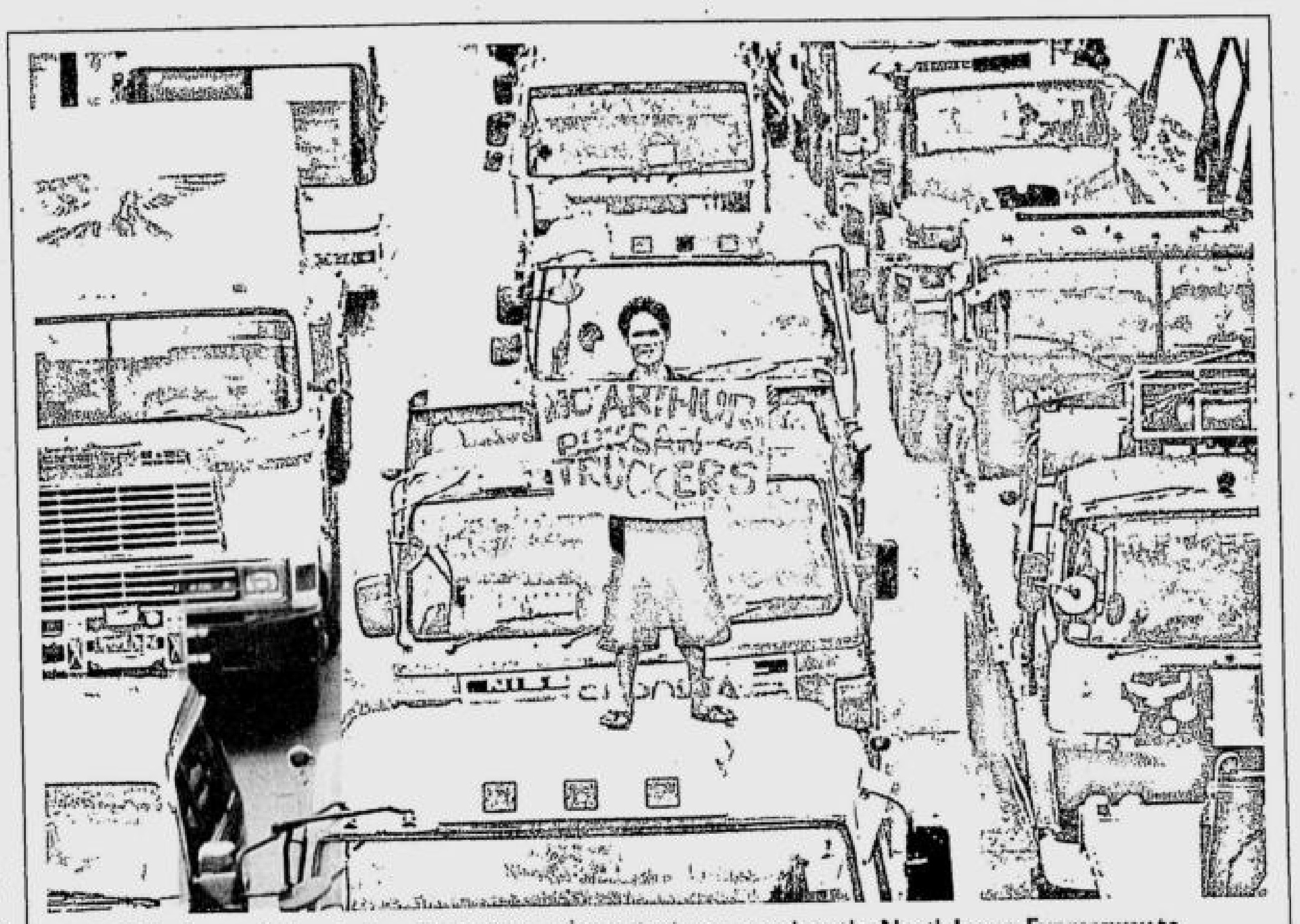
Sabio claimed that majority of the coconut farmers groups are supportive of a compromise deal.

Sabio also disputed claims by some farmer groups opposed to a compromise that the courts have already ruled in favor of the government on the San Miguel shares.

"The Supreme Court itself stated that its ruling was only provisional and was only meant for the purpose of determining who could vote the shares and it stated that the government could vote them," Sabio said.

On Dec. 14, 2001, the Supreme Court ruled that the coconut levy funds were public funds but left it to the Sandiganbayan to decide who owned the assets acquired with the funds.

Nineteen months later on July 11, 2003, the Sandiganbayan ruled that Cojuangco illegally acquired the United Coconut Planters Bank shares with coco levy funds and forfeited his shareholdings in the bank in favor of the government.



TRUCKS bring traffic to a halt on A. Bonifacio Avenue in the approach to the North Luzon Expressway to protest the anti-overloading regulations in the tollway. (Story on Page A24)
REM ZAMORA

No witnesses: Senate cancels 'Hello Garci' hearing

By TJ Burgonio

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NAtional defense canceled its inquiry into the "Hello Garci" tape scandal set for today after top military officials begged off from attending because of Executive Order No. 464.

"The invited resource persons will not be able to attend on account of EO 464," said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, committee chair, in a notice of cancellation to his colleagues.

Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Generoso Senga, Intelligence Service of the AFP (Isafp) chief Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo and Western Command chief Rear Admiral Tirso Danga, among others, informed the committee anew that they would be skipping the hearing because of EO 464, a Senate staffer said.

The EO which had come out of Malacañang bars administration, police and military officials from appearing at congressional hearings without the President's consent.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, who would have been the main witness at today's hearing, had also begged off but not because of EO 464.

"We regret to inform you that Secretary Norberto Gonzales is out of the country on official business and therefore would not be able to attend the public hearing," said Victor Mayo, senior deputy director general of the National Security Council, in a letter to Biazon.

Biazon had invited Gonzales to the hearing after he confirmed earlier this week that the NSC had established the identity of the individual behind the recent wiretapping of Malacañang.

"This revelation of Secretary Gonzales very clearly confirms the seriousness of this wiretapping issue, which constitutes a very serious breach of national security," the senator had said.

The cancellation of today's hearing was also partly due to the expected nonappearance of lawyer Samuel Ong and his driver, Lito Santiago, who face arrest on charges of kidnapping and illegal detention.

Ong, former deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation, surfaced in June last year, claiming he had the master Garci tape that had come from Isafp agent T/Sgt. Vidal Doble through Santiago.

The tape purportedly contained conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano discussing the vote in the May 2004 presidential elections.

The controversy triggered calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation and prompted opposition lawmakers to file an impeachment complaint against her, which was dismissed by the administration-dominated House of Representatives in September.

At the committee's previous hearings, Vidal's ex-girlfriend, Marietta Santos, claimed that a 14-man team from the Isafp's Military Intelligence Group 21, including Vidal, had wiretapped Garcillano and opposition personalities between January and June 2004.

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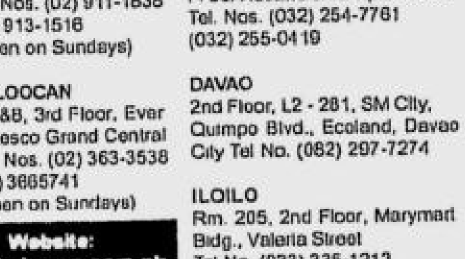

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SOUTH AFRICA CONFERENCE

Baptism of fire: Reyes makes pitch for RP mining

By Norman Bordadora

REYES

IN AN AGGRESSIVE SALES PITCH FOR THE country's revitalized mining industry, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes has invited the world's leading mining companies to set up operations in the Philippines, offering them up to nine million hectares of what he described as untapped mineral-rich land.

Reyes' office said the newly appointed head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources made the pitch last Wednesday to executives of 350 mining companies and regulators from 50 countries attending a three-day conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

About 2,000 delegates were expected at the 10th Indaba Mining Conference, an annual gathering not only of miners but also of policy makers and financiers, the DENR said. The meeting ended Wednesday.

Baptism of fire

Reyes left for Cape Town last Saturday night, hours after helping oversee the rescue operations in the wake of the stampede at PhilSports Arena in Pasig City earlier that day, his last as interior secretary.

"Out of the 30 million hectares of the Philippines, nine million hectares or 30 percent of the entire country is identified to have high potential for mineral deposits," Reyes said, according to the text of his speech which the DENR released to the local media.

"The potential for Philippine mining to take off is really big, since of the nine million hectares rich in minerals, only about 420,00 hectares or a mere 1.4 percent of the country's total land area is covered with existing mining rights," he said. "We have identified 24 major mining projects that will require $8 billion in investments for the next five to six years. They are primarily gold, copper and nickel projects."

Reyes issued the come-on even in the face of opposition to mining operations voiced by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, which has called on the Arroyo administration to scrap the Mining Act of 1995 and and cancel all pending applications for mining permits.

Responsible miners

In inviting the mining executives to come over, Reyes made sure, however, that the government was interested only in responsible miners who will observe safety regulations and not pollute the environment.

"Therefore, as we invite you to the Philippines, we also expect the same environmental and safety standards that you apply when you responsibly mine in your own countries," Reyes said.

He cited four reasons the Philippines was ideal of mining, even calling the country "the next mining capital of the world."

"First, we have the resources and reserves," said Reyes. "Second, we have the strategic geographical location; third, we have the human resources with proper experience and skills, and; fourth, we have a conducive legal system and clear policy environment."

Reyes said the Philippines could also serve as the miners' main gateway to Africa's major mineral markets such as China, Japan and South Korea.

Big edge

He boasted that the country had adequate ports to ship ores or refined products to various markets.

"In fact, all mines in the Philippines are within 50 to 100 kilometers from a port, a big advantage over countries with thousands of kilometers separating their mines from their shipment point," Reyes said.

"More importantly,' he added, "the Philippines now has a clear national roadmap for mining, supported by the three branches of government." He cited the passage by Congress of the Philippine Mining Act in 1995 and the Supreme Court's decision upholding the constitutionality of the law including provisions that allow foreign equity investments up to 100 percent.

Reyes said gold has been a historical leading product of the Philippines, "with the new gold projects under exploration expected to bring its total gold production to over 70 tons annually."

Copper production could go up to more than 500,000 tons annually by 2013 and nickel production is expected to hit 206,000 tons after Japan's Sumitomo company completes a new plant, Reyes said.

"I am confident that the mining companies among you who employ Filipinos will attest to their technical competence," he said.

PAL suspends flights to Laoag

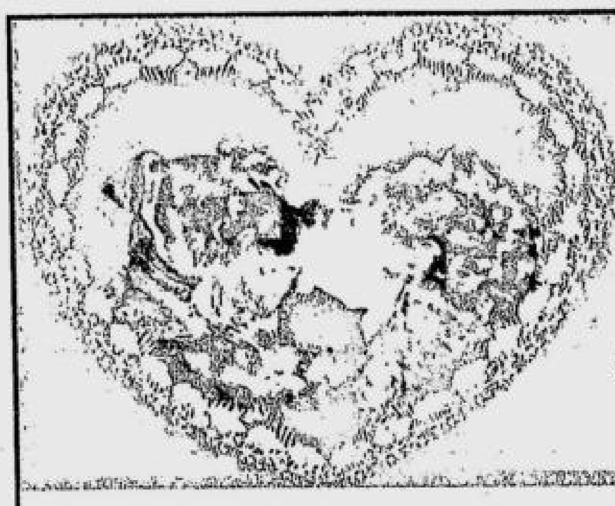
PHILIPPINE AIRLINES WILL SUSPEND FLIGHTS to Laoag effective Feb.13 due to the lack of staff willing to serve at Laoag International Airport (LIA), the airline announced yesterday.

Passengers holding tickets for flights beyond Feb. 13 are advised that their tickets may be refunded at any PAL ticket office or at their travel agent without penalties and surcharges, the PAL statement said.

Since April 2004, when PAL resumed regular service to Laoag, the flag carrier's ground-handling operations at the LIA have been handled by a local company.

PAL, however, still oversees all activities by periodically assigning regular staff from its head office to Laoag.

PAL flies four times weekly to the Ilocos Norte capital using 150-seater Airbus A320 aircraft.



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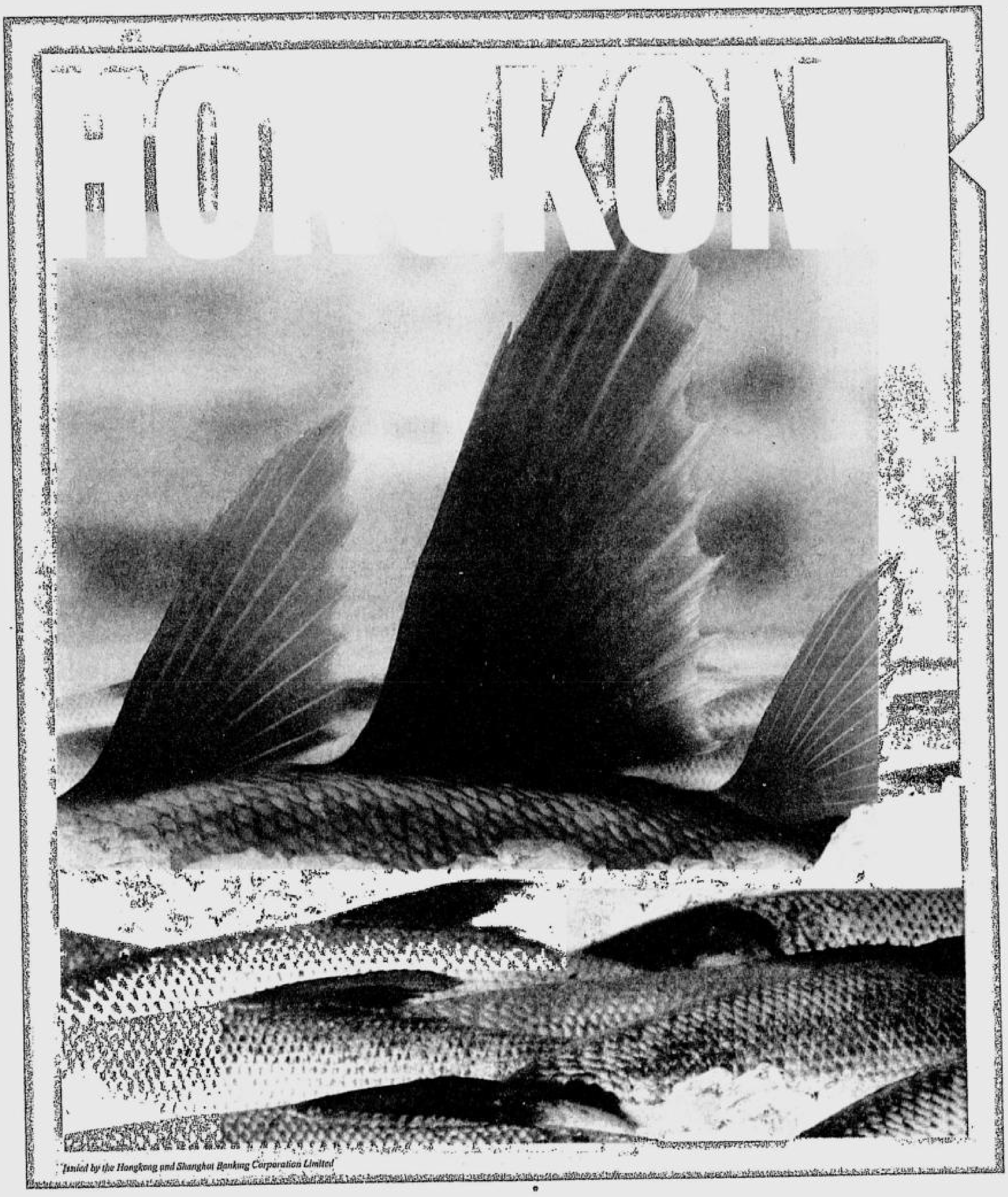

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2 discharged soldiers in Oakwood mutiny released

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TWO FORMER SOLDIERS TAGGED in the Oakwood mutiny of 2003 walked out of military detention yesterday, ending their nearly two-year fight for temporary freedom.

Private citizens for over two years now, discharged servicemen Cezari Gonzalez, 30, and Julius Mesa, 36, were released by their military custodians yesterday morning in heed of a release order from the Makati Regional Trial Court.

Visibly glad over their release, the ex-soldiers came to court in shirts and jeans at 11:10 a.m., where their former custodians formally turned them over to the court.

"We are happy because, finally, we would be with our families again," said Mesa.

"I am happy... This is a step towards victory," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER.

Mesa and Gonzalez were held for three years at the Marine Corps detention center at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City, along with six other fellow accused.

They were among 31 rebel soldiers charged in a civilian court for staging the July 27, 2003, takeover of the luxury Oakwood Premier apartment-hotel in Makati City.

"I'm very happy because we fought long and hard for this. We had one year of bail hearings and we won that round but they refused to release them. So to get two is really a victory for us," said lead defense lawyer Roel Pulido.

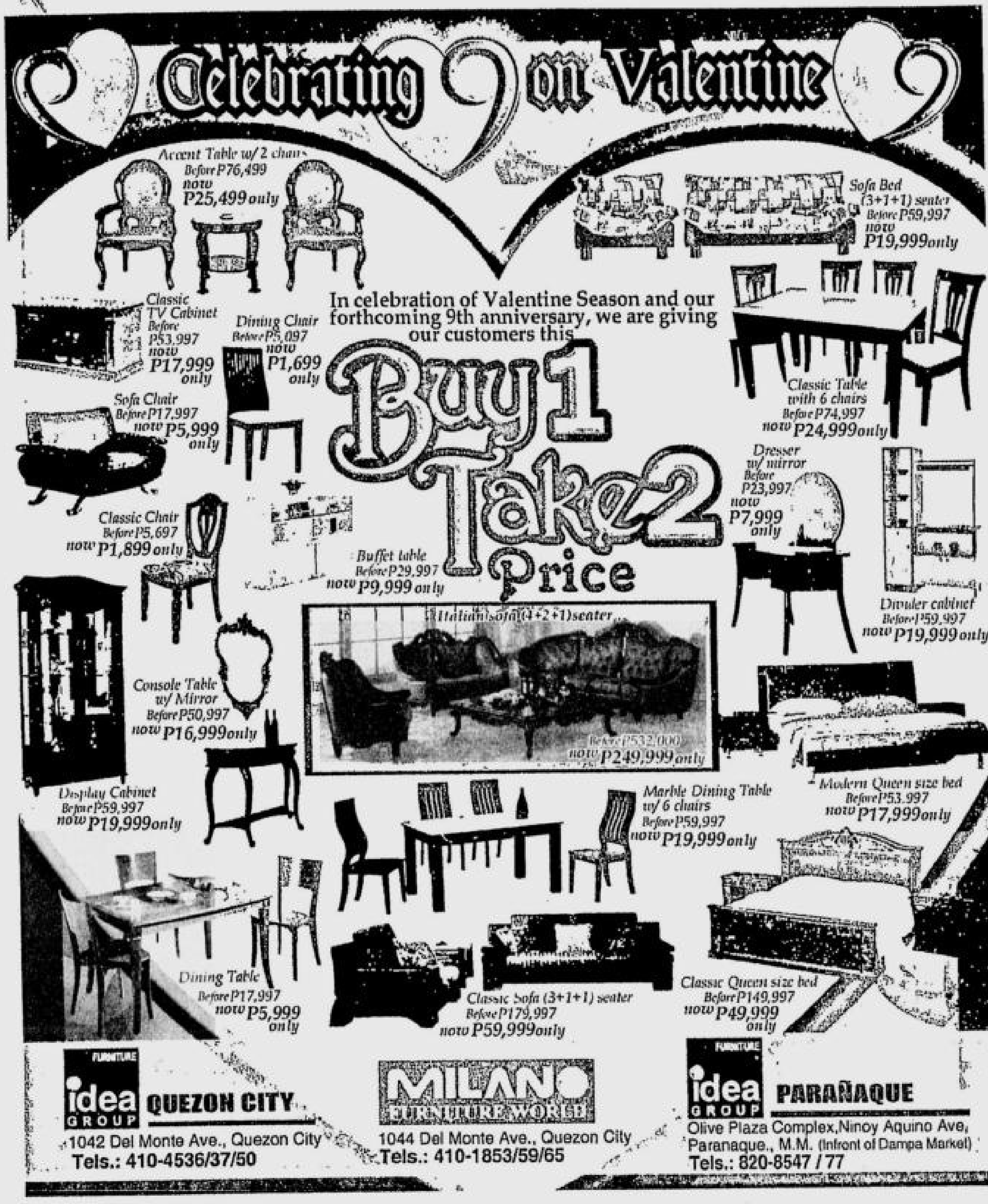
The two former soldiers were among seven Magdalo members who posted P100,000 cash bonds in July 2004, when the Makati court granted bail for 27 of the accused.

The military, however, continued to hold them despite a release order from the court.

"There was no reason for them to be held in military custody, and in fact since July 2004 they [had been] illegally detained," Pulido said.

Unlike the five others who posted bail but remained in custody on charges they faced before the military court, Pulido said Mesa and Gonzalez had been civilians since December 2003 when they were "dishonorably discharged" from the military.

With the discharge and the subsequent release order from the civilian court, the former members of the Philippine Navy's elite Special Warfare Group (SWAG) should in fact have been released one and a half years ago, Pulido said.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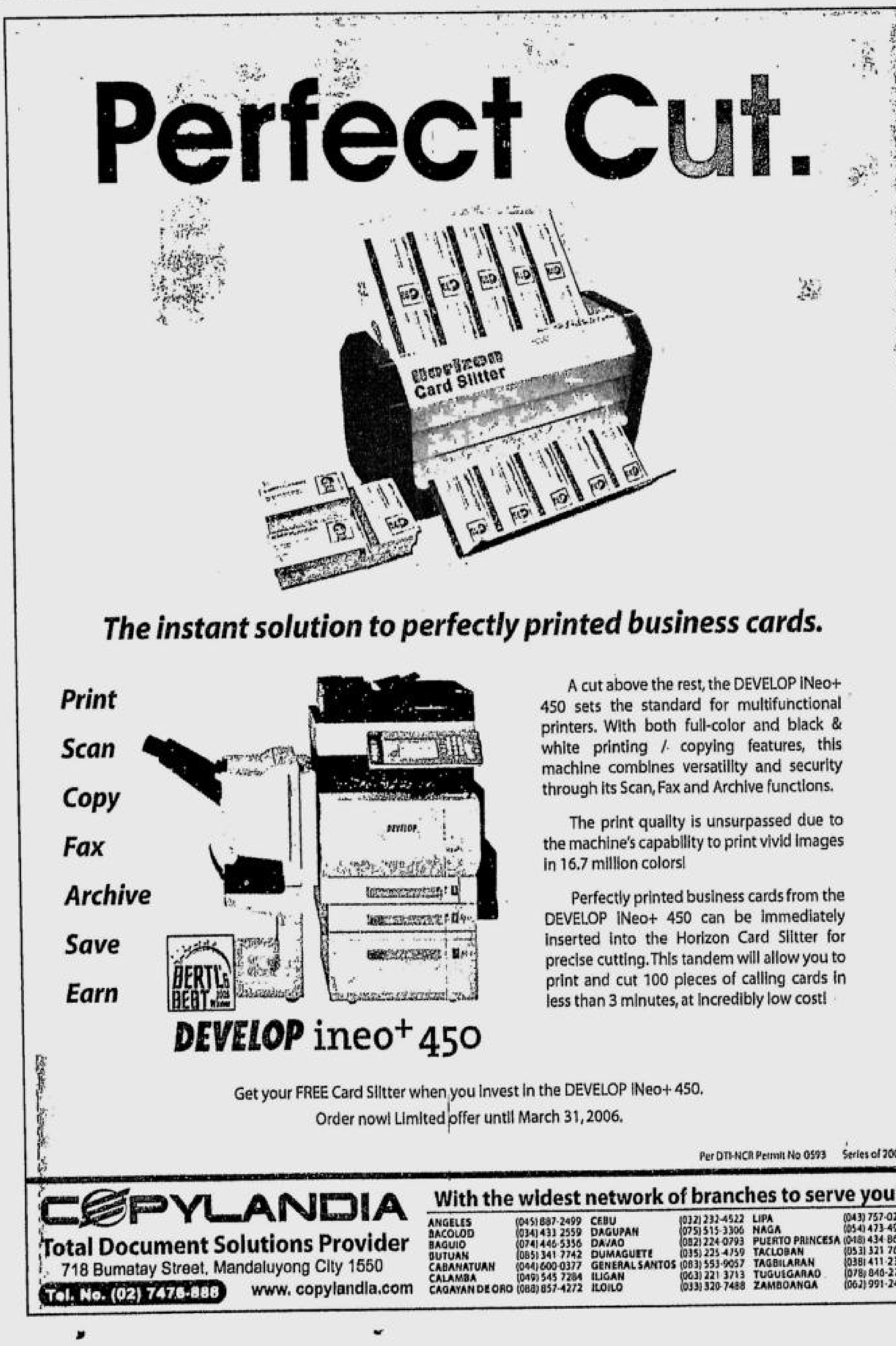
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'PARLIAMENTARY PREVIEW'

Palace beginning to look and sound like Congress

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG IS BEGINNING TO LOOK AND sound like the halls of Congress these days with the recruitment of several legislators, all experienced politicians, into the Cabinet.

"It's just like the good old days. It feels like I'm back in the plenary hall each time we meet in the Cabinet with familiar faces around me," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermit, who himself served for three terms as a congressman from Batangas.

The new Cabinet makeup is a drastically different from Ms Arroyo's post-election Cabinet in 2004 in which most of the secretaries were mostly professionals and technocrats.

Business leaders view the President's move to surround herself with seasoned politicians in the latest Cabinet revamp as a "preview" of how a parliamentary form of government works.

Aside from Ermita, the ex-legislator reunion in the Cabinet brings together Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, and new appointees Antipolo City Rep. Ronaldo Puno (interior secretary), Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya (budget secretary), and former Western Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura (chief presidential legal counsel).

Never a congressman

Planning Secretary Romulo Neri was never a congressman but has spent most of his government career as the in-house economist of the House of Representatives.

Though Cabinet secretaries eschew the stilted language of parliamentary discourse, Ermita said that some Cabinet discussions have turned into long-winded debates no different what it was like during his days in Congress.

"This is why all of us are glad that Secretary Mike Defensor is with us as he provides comic relief," said Ermita.

But Defensor refuses to be referred to as the class clown.

"I'm just bubbly," said Defensor who never fails to forestall a blow-up from the short-tempered Ms Arroyo every time a subject threatens to ruin her day and has the President laughing in no time.

Defensor, who was Quezon City representative from 1995 to 2001, noted that most of the ex-congressmen— himself, Ermita, Bunye, Andaya and Nachura—belonged to the minority group that started the process of impeaching deposed President Estrada.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis, president of Philippine Exporters Confederation, said the President may want to show the public how lawmakers would perform as heads of government agencies.

"It's a preview of how a parliament government will work since all government heads would come from parliament," said Ortiz-Luis.

Nothing wrong

Francis Chua, president of Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce, does not see anything wrong with the President's choices.

"It does not matter if a politician is head of a department, as long as most undersecretaries are professionals because they handle the nitty-gritty of the department," said Chua.

Corruption still biggest bane to Southeast Asian growth

SOUTHEAST ASIA, WHICH HAS LINKED UP with China to set up the world's largest free trade area, should weed out corruption to realize its potential as a growth and investment hub, the top US business lobby in Asia said Wednesday.

"A critical downside of the investment environment is corruption—what we used to call out of concern for diplomatic niceties 'transparency,'" said Martin Sullivan, chair of the US-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Business Council.

"We need to stop tiptoeing around this issue, it is too important," said the CEO of American International Group Inc. (AIG), the world's largest insurer, as he formally took the council's helm Wednesday at a ceremony in Washington.

Most Asean countries consistently fare poorly in any global yardstick on clean government.

Out of a clean score of 10 on the Berlin-based Transparency International's corruption perceptions index, only Singapore and Malaysia came out above five.

Sullivan lamented that decisions on major new investments in the region were made a "great deal more difficult by the prospect of dealing with corrupt government bureaucracies, or a shifting tax structure, or a contract open to interpretations and/or abrogation.

"As long as these issues rate so high in the minds of the investors, Asean will never live up to its potential," he said. "Our direct interest? If the Asean economy is not living up to its potential, neither are investors." The council has for a long time been engaged in talks with Asean leaders and governments about the need for predictable and liberal investment environments, he said.

Investors, he said, valued market access, property rights, sanctity of contracts, respect for legal due process, clean administration of justice, open regulatory processes and stable tax structures that supported development.

But Sullivan acknowledged that the region deserved some credit, noting that the International Finance Corp., the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, in its "Doing Business in 2006," rated Singapore number two in the world for ease of doing business, above the United States at number three.

Thailand and Malaysia came in 20th and 21st spot respectively—"not a bad showing," he said.

Asean, comprising Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, is the largest US export market after Europe and Japan. It is one of the world's most rapidly growing area, with more than 500 million people.

Kin seek help for Pinay, 3 kids in Belgium slays

By Volt Contreras

THE RELATIVES OF A Philippine-born woman and her three children who died last week in an apparent murder-suicide case in Antwerp, Belgium, have asked the Department of Foreign Affairs for help in shipping their bodies to the Philippines.

DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque reported this yesterday after news reached Manila of how Belgian citizen Christian Waem, 38, killed his family and himself by suffocation inside a bedroom.

Waem reportedly sealed off windows and doors then lit two charcoal barbecue grills inside, until they all died from the toxic fumes, according to abscbnnews.com. Waem was believed to have been driven to murder by family and financial problems, the report added.

Waem's wife, Precy Cunanan, was a native of Cabiao, Nueva Ecija, who became a Belgian citizen in 2002. The children were identified in the report as Christopher, 14; Randy, 12; and an adopted daughter Yakina, 7.

Asuque said the bodies were discovered Feb. 2 and autopsies revealed all five had died the day before.

Asuque said Cunanan's relatives here approached the department last Feb. 6 for assistance in repatriating the bodies to the country, which would cost at least 4,000 euros (P247,600) per body.

RP-China pact on extradition in effect in March

THE EXTRADITION TREATY that the Philippines signed with China five years ago will finally take effect next month, or 30 days after the formal exchange of documents in Manila today.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Chinese Ambassador Li Jinjun will exchange the Instruments of Ratification at the offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs this afternoon, marking the final stage of the treaty's enforcement.

The treaty was signed in Beijing on Oct. 30, 2001 by the then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Minister Tang Jiaxuan of China's foreign affairs ministry during the state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"(The extradition treaty) will lend crucial support to existing bilateral cooperation frameworks on law enforcement and judicial matters, particularly drug trafficking and transnational crimes," the DFA said in a statement. *Volt Contreras*

Power shortage in South —Napocor

By Abigail L. Ho

WHILE ALLAYING FEARS OF A POWER CRISIS in Luzon this year or the near future, the Department of Energy and National Power Corp. have both admitted gaps in the supply of electricity in the Visayas and Mindanao grids.

Napocor president Cyril del Callar said in a statement that the two grids had been experiencing supply problems the last few months.

According to Department of Energy forecasts, the Visayas grid is expected to grow at an annual average rate of 6.2 percent between 2006 and 2015, while the Mindanao grid is seen to grow at 6.5 percent.

Considering these numbers, the DOE said the critical years for the Visayas and Mindanao grids should start in 2008 and 2006, respectively.

Del Callar said that, for the long term, 71 megawatts (MW) of new capacity should be added to the Visayas grid by 2008, and another 57 MW in Mindanao in 2009, "if we are to avert a power crisis in these two grids."

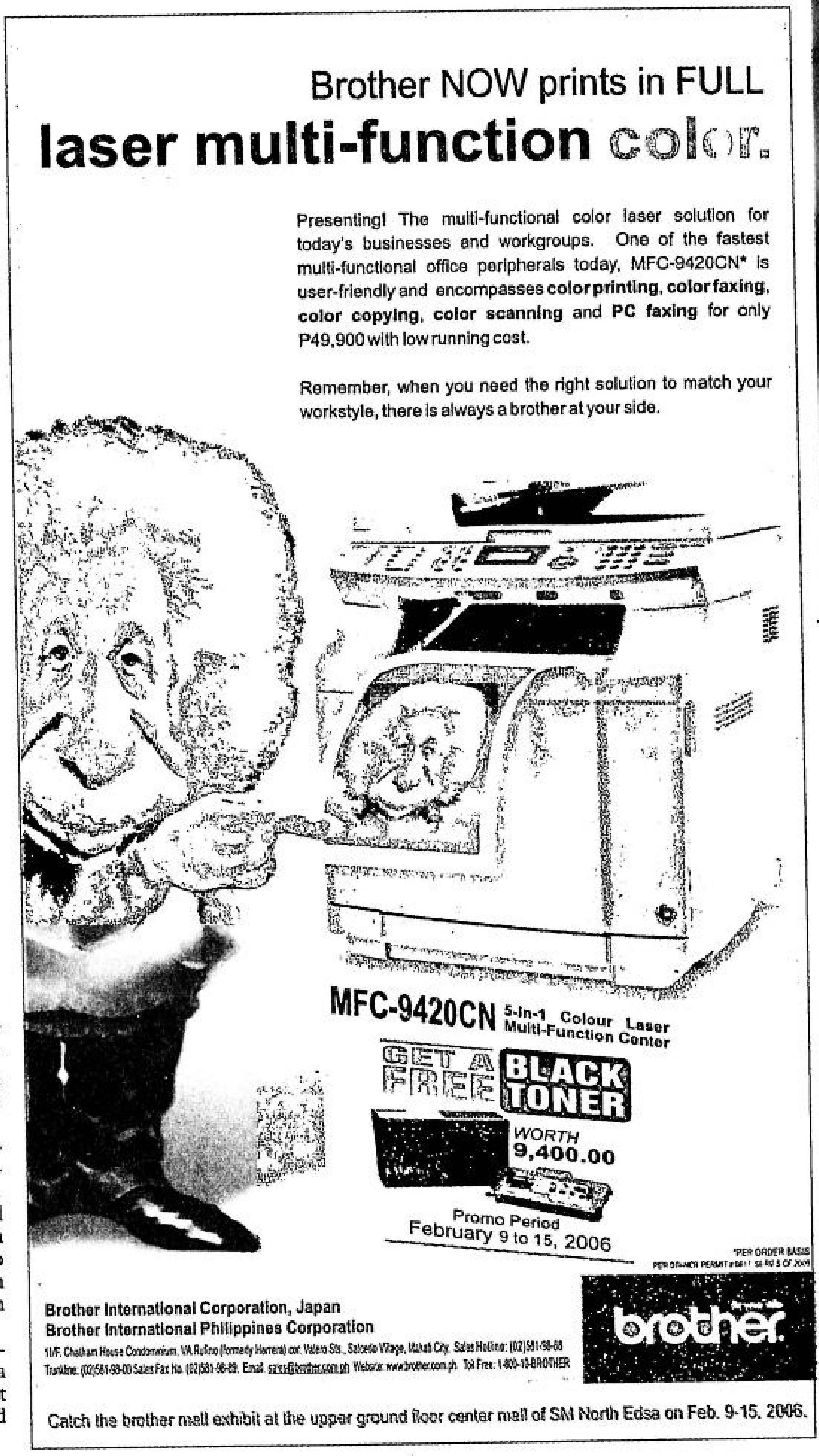
With no new capacities coming on stream in the two grids the past few years, the DOE said several mitigating measures had been put or would be put into place to ensure that there would be no huge power shortfalls in the Visayas and Mindanao.

These include the ongoing strengthening of transmission systems on the islands, the transfer to Mindanao of several power barges, and the commissioning of the new 210-MW Mindanao coal power plant by end-December, the DOE said.

Del Callar said the power supply in Mindanao was expected to get a big boost from the new coal-fired power plant, the first such facility in the grid.

In the Visayas, he said the Leyte-Cebu and Cebu-Mactan transmission line interconnection and uprating projects last year were expected to enhance the distribution of available power in the region, particularly the excess capacity from geothermal power-endowed Leyte.

Also, the construction of a 200-MW coal-fired power plant is ongoing in Naga, Cebu, a project of the second largest independent power producer, Kepco Philippines Corp., and listed firm Salcon Power Corp.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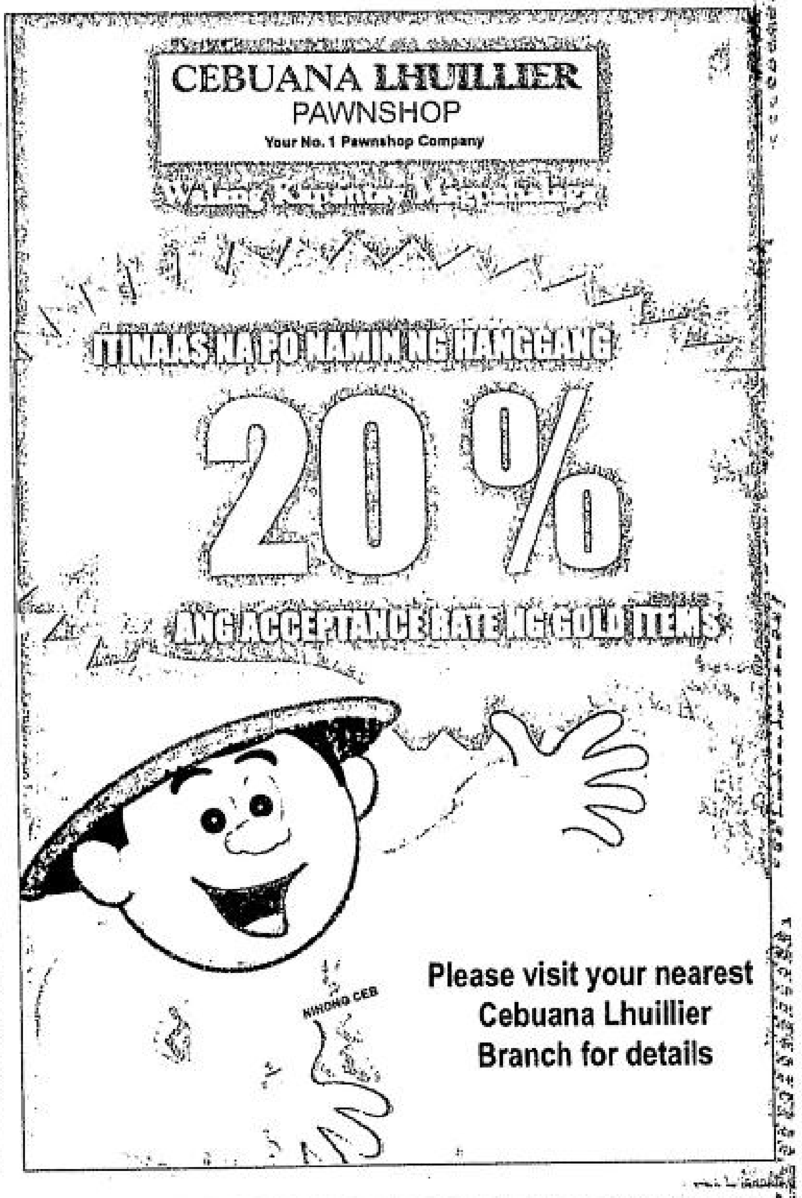
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Miriam: ABS-CBN may have to pay P200,000 each to families of dead

By Philip C. Tubeza

INVESTIGATORS MAY STILL BE LOOKING into the circumstances of the "Wowowee" stampede, but ABS-CBN is liable for it under Philippine penal laws, according to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

The network is liable for reckless imprudence and will have to compensate the injured as well as the families of the dead, said Santiago, a former regional trial court judge.

Santiago said her "educated guess" was that ABS-CBN would have to pay P200,000 to each family of the dead, and P100,000 to each of the injured.

With 74 dead and around 500 injured, "[the compensation] is going to be painful," the senator said. "[It's] going to be a big ouch."

Santiago based her educated guess on the P50,000 "value" that Philippine law gives to each lost life, the compensation for loss of income, and the damages that the network would have to pay the victims.

And even if certain ABS-CBN officials were charged and convicted, they might not serve their jail sentences because the maximum penalty for them is only four years, which will allow them to apply for "probation," she said.

"When something of this nature takes place, what does the law say? Well, the law says: That is not a crime [but] a half-crime. The technical term is 'quasi-offense,' and the [pertinent] provision ... is found in the penal code," Santiago said.

"It is, in effect, a very special crime because although it does not have all the characteristics of a crime, still there is sentencing both in imprisonment and in payment of damages," she said.

Reckless imprudence

This was how Santiago explained the matter:

Under US law, a quasi-offense is a "tort," and the offender is the "tort feaser."

In this case, ABS-CBN is the tort feaser because it sponsored the show. And the tort is reckless imprudence.

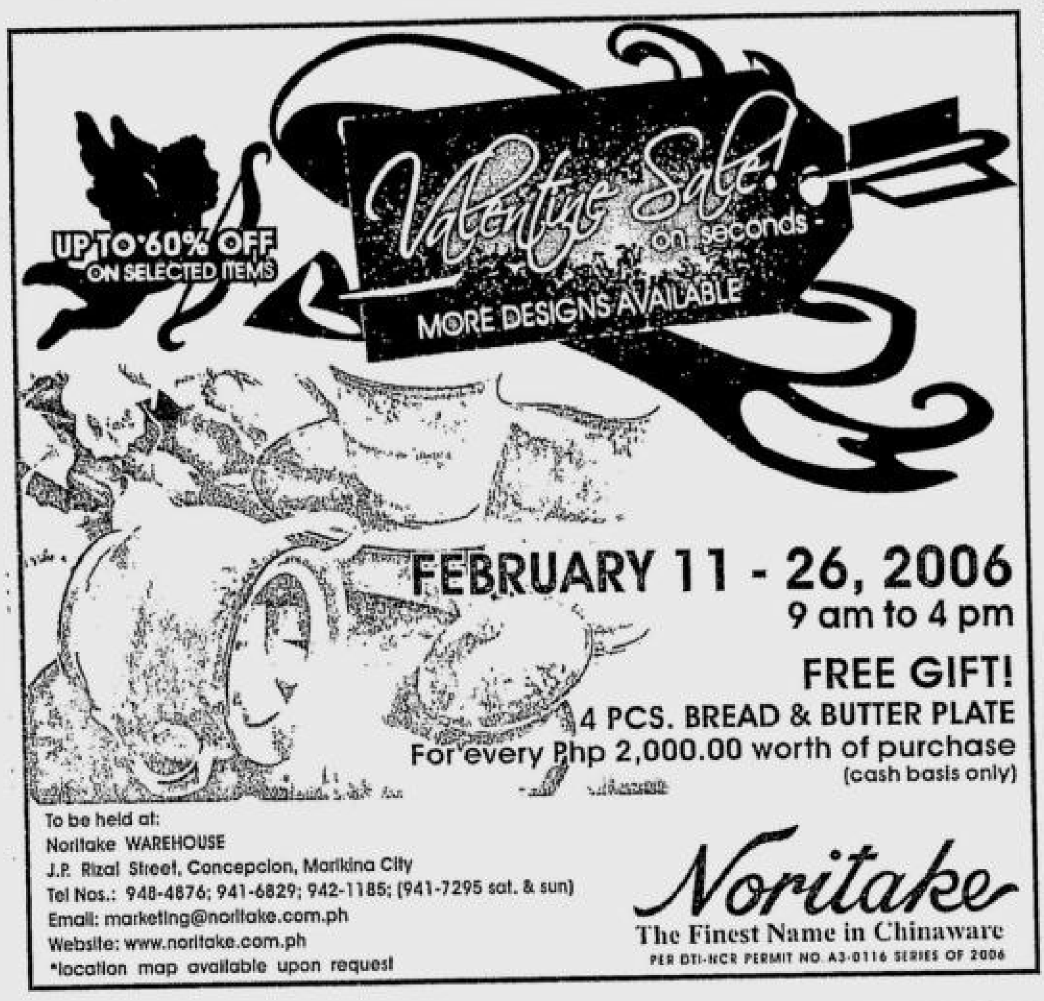
Who among the officials of ABS-CBN should be held responsible is a question for the courts to decide. Still, the network is liable for the tort.

To illustrate, Santiago said: "[Say] you have a house and there's a banana peel there and your guest slips on it and hurts his hand. You are liable to your guest."

She said the network's actions after the stampede—accepting responsibility for it and helping the victims—were already an "admission in law" of its liability.

"When people deliberately set out to attract a huge crowd in the tens of thousands, already the level of precaution that should be undertaken by the tort feaser should immediately rise," Santiago said.

She reiterated her call for a Senate inquiry into the issue, saying: "This is a new phenomenon, this mass entertainment scheme. I think the law has not been able to keep up with modern developments in entertainment."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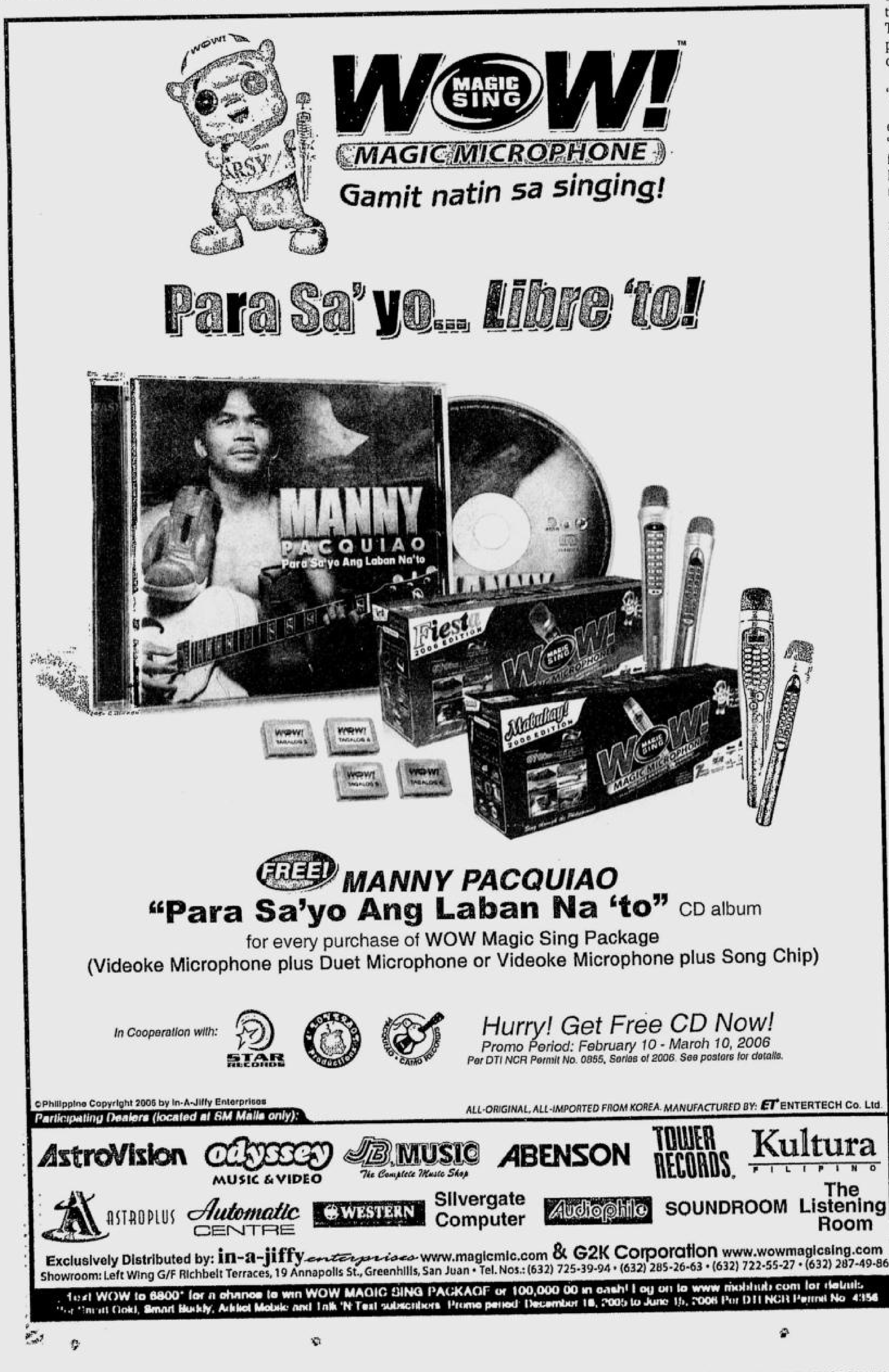
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Militants question cops

ACTIVISTS HAVE A QUESTION for Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office: Why is the Philippine National Police so quick to dispatch scores of men to a protest rally attended by only a few hundred people, and yet fail to act immediately when thousands start converging outside the gates of the PhilSports Arena?

Querol had earlier said that "Wowowee" organizers were the ones calling the shots, and that the police should not be blamed for the stampede.

He had also said that normally, the police did not "aggressively interfere" with the operations of such extravaganzas because millions of pesos in investments could be involved, and the police did not want to be blamed if a show went bankrupt.

Activists pointed out that the police were employing a "double standard" in dealing with large crowds.

"It is hard to believe that the PNP would stay on the sidelines while 30,000 people were massing at the Ultra gates. The police cannot say that it is customary for them not to intervene in such occasions," said Renato Reyes, secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

"When there is a rally of even a few hundred people, the police would immediately intervene and make their presence felt. Here we have a mob of 30,000 people and the police were caught flat-footed," Reyes said.

Bayan members often clash with antiriot cops during protest actions.

'Usual enthusiasm'

Reyes wondered why the police did not show their "usual enthusiasm" in dealing with the "Wowowee" crowd.

He said that during street protests last year, the PNP repeatedly invoked "public safety and public inconvenience" as the reasons it was regulating mass actions.

"If the PNP was so concerned about issues of public safety and public inconvenience, as it was in the past, then it did not have to wait to be invited to the coordinating meetings of the event organizers," Reyes said.

"Querol should stop making excuses for the Pasig police," he added.

Pasig gov't, cops ...

From page A1

the documents submitted."

He said the prosecutors would improve on the "incomplete" report of the inter-agency Task Force Ultra cochaired by Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus and Mayor Eusebio, and "gather all the evidence that would really stand in court."

But he defended the members of the fact-finding team, saying they had been given limited time. This was why, he said, the DOJ panel would "adopt and expand" on the team's report.

In Pasig, Eusebio said he was "open to any investigation."

He also said it was the organizers of the noontime show "Wowowee" who were to blame for the stampede at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra).

Eusebio was reacting to statements from ABS-CBN officials suggesting that the Pasig government and police could also be held liable for the tragedy.

He said the city government had deployed enforcers and policemen to the area even if there had been "no coordination" with the show organizers.

Wrapping up

ABS-CBN has pegged its count of the dead at 71.

At a press conference, Tina Monzon-Palma, program director of ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Bata, said the network was nearly done with the funeral arrangements for the victims and would now focus on helping rebuild the lives of those left behind.

"We have pretty much covered the needs of the victims [concerning funeral services]," she said.

Maloli Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for corporate affairs, added that of those injured, only five remained in hospitals.

Amid reports that the network was making the families of the victims sign quit-claim waivers, Palma said ABS-CBN was prepared to go beyond covering medical and funeral expenses.

She said a "needs assessment" of the victims' situation would determine the amount or quality of aid they would receive.

"We will look at all their needs. If we can help with the education of children who lost their parents, we will face that," Palma said.

"If some of them lost their jobs [because of injuries], we'll look at their skills and help them start a business or get a job," she said.

Varying needs

Palma said she did not want to go into the details of how much went to whom because each family's needs would differ from another.

"[For instance,] one of them was from Surigao, so there would be a bigger expense for shipping the body," she said.

Asked if there was a uniform amount given to each family, Palma said: "It would be better if you ... asked them. Go to the 71 families and ask them individually. I'm sure you'll be able to put it together.

"I cannot give you a blanket amount about this or that person's needs for this situation, because each case is different."

Palma said she did not know how much ABS-CBN had spent on the victims' needs so far: "We haven't actually counted the expenses for the funeral and medical services."

On the subject of the supposed quit-claim waivers, Palma said ABS-CBN had no intention of evading responsibility for the tragedy.

"We're not pointing fingers at anyone here," she said, adding in Filipino: "This is us. We did the inviting. We set it up."

She also said that the matter was still the subject of investigation, and that she was not in a position to comment on who was responsible.

More people

Gonzalez said that from the four ABS-CBN officials recommended for criminal prosecution, the list could include more people, including police officials and personnel assigned in Pasig.

Told that "Wowowee" organizers had claimed that they had called the police for help two hours before the stampede, he said: "That is now a matter of evidence. [Investigators] will have to look into that."

Gonzalez also said the Pasig police could be charged administratively.

He said they could be held liable if they are found to have violated "standard operating procedures" in not immediately responding to the call for crowd-dispersal assistance from the show organizers.

He agreed with the observation of ABS-CBN executives that Task Force Ultra should not have immediately cleared the police of liability.

Revillame

Gonzalez reiterated that even "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame could be included in the complaint, noting that even if the latter had claimed to have no say in crowd-control preparations, he visited the show venue three nights in a row prior to the stampede.

"Therefore, he should have known what was the situation on the ground. He should have reported [it to the organizers] because there were three emergency meetings [held prior to the stampede]," Gonzalez said, adding:

"I don't think he was in total control of the show, but he was involved."

Asked about Eusebio's possible liability, Gonzalez said there was "nothing" that could "really pin down" the mayor "because he merely issued the permit."

For now, Gonzalez said, the biggest responsibility fell on the show organizers, for producing the show and inviting the people there.

He said the permit issued to the organizers showed that they had been assigned to control the crowd. "The portion of that street given to them by way of the permit was their responsibility," he said.

As for Eugenio Lopez III, ABS-CBN chair and CEO, his act of owning responsibility for the tragedy has served to strengthen a class suit that some victims are reportedly planning to file, Gonzalez said. *With reports from Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto*

Sale of 2 sequestered TV networks may finally happen in 2 months

By Alcuin Papa

AFTER REPEATED ANNOUNCEMENTS of their possible sale in the past, the privatization of sequestered television stations RPN 9 and IBC 13 may finally happen in the next two months.

Presidential Commission on Good Government Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said the agency was bent on disposing of the TV stations as soon as possible as the government cannot be involved in the media industry.

"My feeling is the government has no business being in media. We need to dispose of these. They have been losing [money] and there are parties who have expressed interest. The sooner we dispose of [the stations], the better," Abcede said.

He explained that CLSA Exchange, a financial group which won the right to be the financial adviser to RPN and IBC, was already in the process of studying all aspects of the sale of the two television stations.

Gerry Reyes, Abcede's chief of staff, said the commission has already drawn up with a timetable.

"There is good chance by March or April, RPN 9 and IBC 13 may be privatized except for possible legal impediments that may be thrown in the way," he said.

Abcede said that based on the PCGG's valuation of the assets of the two stations, IBC's fiscal assets are substantial but RPN 9 has "very little."

A major concern, however, are the possible labor cases that employees of the networks might file, he said.

"The employees are for privatization but if they are not happy with the distribution of the proceeds, they can do something to oppose it ultimately," he said.

Another consideration would be the retention of employees, if any.

"There is a possibility that the buyer of these networks will absorb some of them. A lot of them have the technical expertise because they have been there for a long time. Maybe the buyer will just update the equipment facilities. I think what is important here is the franchise," Abcede said.

GARCIA

Sandigan junks plea to dismiss case vs Garcia

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS DENIED THE motion filed by the wife of former Armed Forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia seeking the dismissal of the P143-million forfeiture case filed by the government against their family.

In a 13-page resolution dated Jan. 24, the antigraft court's Fourth Division held that it had original and exclusive jurisdiction over the case as it threw out the arguments of Clarita Garcia and her children Ian Carl, Juan Paolo and Timothy Mark.

Mrs. Garcia and her sons had claimed the case should have been dismissed because the summons was not personally served on them but on General Garcia.

While agreeing that there was an improper service of summons which resulted in the failure of the court to obtain jurisdiction over Mrs. Garcia and her children, the Fourth Division pointed out that the government had every right to request for an "alias" summons against them.

'Failure to prosecute'

Likewise, it held that there was no basis for the defendants' claim that the government had abandoned the case through its "failure to prosecute within an unreasonable period of four months" since the case was filed on July 5, 2005.

The court pointed out that contrary to the respondents' allegations, the case had not lain dormant as government lawyers served the summons on General Garcia and his family at his place of detention at Camp Aguinaldo and filed a motion for alternative service of summons in August 2005 following the nonappearance at the hearings of Mrs. Garcia and the children.

"This intervening period can hardly be reckoned as delay constitutive of failure to prosecute inasmuch as the objective of those incidents was precisely the service of summons. Given these circumstances, the delay in the proper service of summons did not amount to a failure to prosecute for an unreasonable period of time," the Sandiganbayan declared.

The court also held that there was no basis for the defendants' claim that the filing of the forfeiture case was superfluous as the government had already filed a plunder case against them and the forfeiture case would only expose them to double jeopardy.

Plunder, the court explained, was criminal in nature while a forfeiture proceeding was a civil case.

"The principle of double jeopardy does not apply. (It) refers to jeopardy of punishment for the same offense. Since the forfeiture case under Republic Act No. 1379 does not constitute an offense, the filing of a case under it is not barred by the conviction or acquittal of the respondents in the plunder case," it said.

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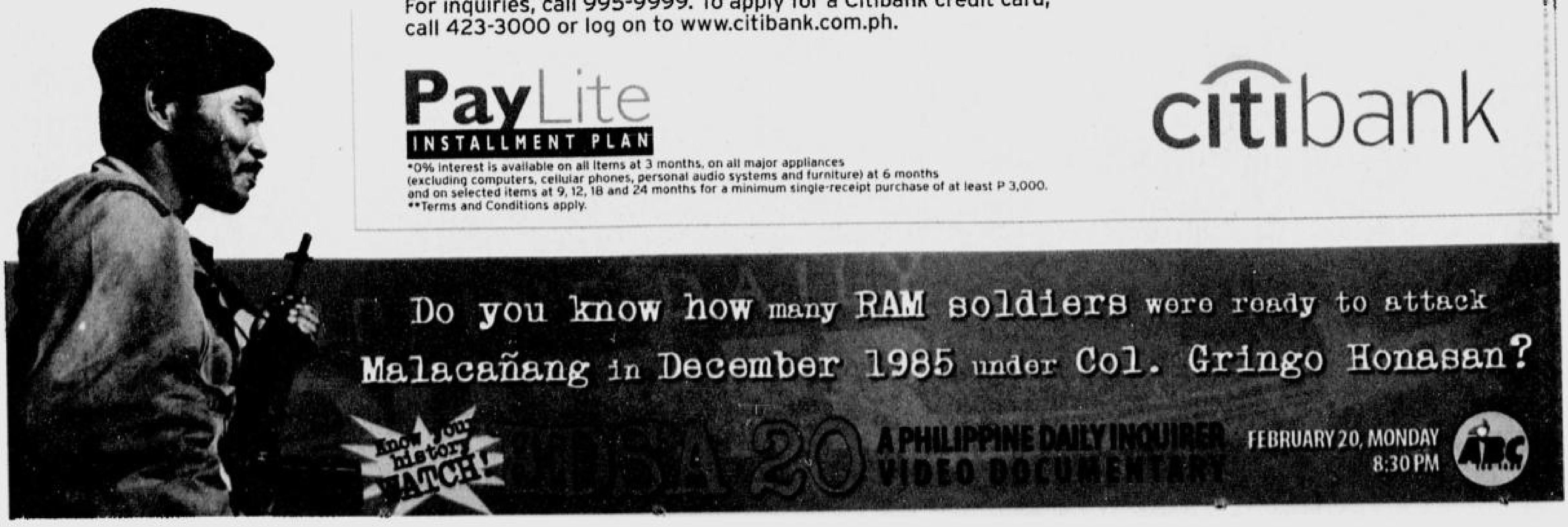

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Abueva says bishops misinformed on Cha-cha

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MAN TAPPED TO SPEARhead the drive to amend the Constitution yesterday slammed Catholic bishops for condemning the purported haste of the Arroyo administration in pushing for changes in the document.

"I think it's not hasty. I think this is a misinformed view of the CBCP," said Dr. Jose Abueva, chair of the Consultative Commission on Constitutional Reform, the body created by President Macapagal-Arroyo to recommend amendments to the 1987 Constitution.

The commission is proposing a shift to a parliamentary form of government and the scrapping of the 2007 elections.

Speaking at the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference (BBC) on Charter Change in Makati, Abueva said there was no rush at all because the campaign had been going on for "many, many years."

He pointed out that the Citizens Movement for a Federal Philippines had initiated the effort in 1999 and that the 11th and 12th Congresses had tackled proposals to amend the Constitution.

"Let us have a sense of history. Let us be empirical. Let us not say things that are not true, that Charter change is being hastily foisted on the people," Abueva said.

In a pastoral statement dated Jan. 29, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said it was not supporting "hasty efforts to change this fundamental law of the land without the widespread discussion and participation that such changes require."

ABUEVA

Change of heart

Abueva was also not buying the bishops' position that a change of heart or in character was far more important than a shift to a federal-parliamentary system of government.

"Christianity has been trying to do that for two millennia and she continues to do so but that is not the only way to bring about change," he said.

"Institutions also need change. There are many defeatist and wrong conclusions and assumptions. (But) as a matter of fact, institutions do matter."

The BBC, started in 1971 by the late Jaime Cardinal Sin and businessman Vicente Jayme, initiated its own "traveling forums" for three months in six key areas nationwide to seek the public pulse.

Its national executive committee includes CBCP president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo.

Participants in the nationwide consultation raised issues ranging from the timing and real motivation of the initiative to whether it was really the answer to the country's woes, BBC official Jose Concepcion Jr. said in his presentation yesterday.

Last-ditch effort

"Charter change is the last-ditch effort of the President to stay in power," read part of the summary of the findings.

"The proposals for Charter change were met with much doubt and suspicion. The sentiment of many was that the country's problems—corruption and poverty—would not necessarily be resolved with changing the Charter. Many also felt that the timing and agenda behind Charter change is suspect."

Rep. Constantino Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said this sentiment was observed most likely because the respondents were deciding on the issue based on their opinions of Ms Arroyo.

The CBCP earlier urged the public to relentlessly pursue the truth about the President's alleged manipulation of the 2004 election.

"That is exactly the opposition line," Abueva said, suggesting that one way to settle the issue would be to continue the election protest of vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda.

Since the election returns also contained votes for presidential candidates, Abueva said that resolving the Legarda complaint would also "confirm who really won in the presidential election."

Abueva shared the CBCP observation that there was indeed a lack of accountability in public service.

Lack of accountability is manifested when no public official "answers or assumes responsibility for failure of governance or the inability of our government to solve our problems, which are getting worse and worse over the years," he said.

The issue could be resolved by strengthening political parties, he said.

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New DILG secretary's priority: Cha-cha

From page A1

royo said Charter change "must be achieved by the middle of this year."

The Lakas national directorate rejected former President Fidel Ramos' proposal that Ms Arroyo cut short her term in 2007 to pave the way for a parliamentary form of government.

Speaker Jose de Venecia proposed a French-style transition parliamentary government under which Ms Arroyo would remain president but share some of her powers with a prime minister who would be the chief operating officer.

Puno expressed confidence that Cha-cha proponents had the numbers to comply with the three-fourths vote, or 195 members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, voting jointly, to introduce "any amendment to, or revision of, the Constitution."

"I think we have more than 195. What is most important is that the votes are already there," he said.

Cha-cha express

Puno said three to four senators and three opposition House members would soon board the Cha-cha express driven by De Venecia.

"If we have 195, it's up to them (House leaders) what legal path they will take," he said, issuing his first categorical endorsement of the De Venecia formula to end what the Speaker described as the perennial "gridlock and paralysis" between the executive and legislative branches of government.

But a number of senators claim that under a constituent assembly, any amendment to the Constitution must be approved by a three-fourths vote of the House and of the Senate, voting separately.

In the 24-seat Senate, 18 votes are needed to approve any amendment. Since there are 23 senators at present, only six votes would be needed to reject it.

Sen. Joker Arroyo had said that Ms Arroyo and Ramos could get the support of only six senators on Charter change.

Without the Senate's support, Congress could not convene a constituent assembly and change the Constitution, according to the senators.

Can't wait for Senate

Puno supported Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte's position that debating specific constitutional amendments—as the House committee on constitutional amendments was doing—even before determining the mode of amending the Charter was like putting the cart before the horse.

De Venecia, however, said that the chamber had already prioritized and approved last year House Resolution No. 26, which seeks to convert Congress into a constituent assembly to pave the way for the creation of a unicameral parliament under a parliamentary system.

With the resolution stuck in the Senate, the House had to debate the specific amendments in the meantime to save time, the Speaker said.

"We cannot wait for the Senate. Time is running out. The argument for a prompt shift to a parliamenatary-federal type is so powerful and, I think, the only way out of this political crisis," De Venecia said.

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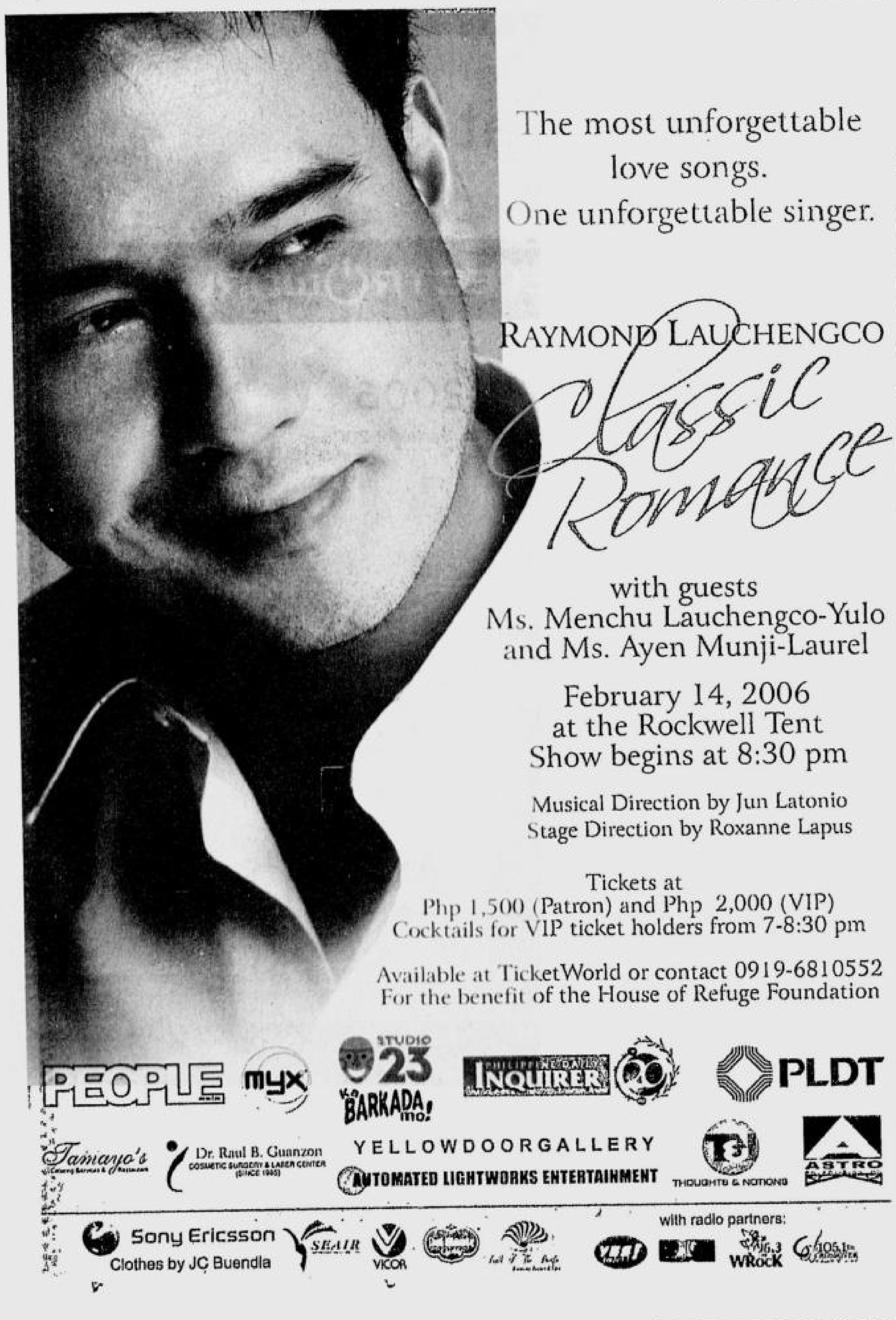

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Palace moves toward reconciliation with Erap

From page A1

"The Palace has always maintained an open line to former President Estrada," said Defensor, whose transfer from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to the Palace would allow him to devote more time to Ms Arroyo's reconciliation initiatives.

But Defensor maintained that he had not yet talked to Estrada since the opposition's show of solidarity on Sunday.

Former President Corazon Aquino, Senate President Franklin Drilon and actress Susan Roces—widow of presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.—joined Estrada in a thanksgiving Mass at the San Juan Medical Center following the ousted leader's successful corrective eye surgery.

Estrada more formidable

The opposition gathering was unprecedented since Aquino and Drilon broke away from Ms Arroyo at the height of calls for the President's resignation last July over allegations she stole the 2004 presidential election. The 58-year-old President has denied the charges.

A Palace source, who refused to be identified because of his sensitive post in the reconciliation efforts, said that Malacañang was taking a more deliberate pace in touching base with Estrada.

The source said Estrada was still not in the mood to start reconciliation talks with any Palace emissary. He noted Estrada had been detained for five years while on trial on plunder charges.

Malacañang considers Estrada a more formidable force than Aquino because of his big following among the masses which was why reconciliation efforts with him were a higher priority, the source said.

New legal chief for speedy trial

While Malacañang is set to reopen reconciliation talks with Estrada, its legal department has expressed its desire to speed up his trial at the Sandiganbayan.

Newly appointed Presidential Chief Legal Counsel Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura said: "Policywise and based on the Constitution, an accused is entitled to a speedy trial and this policy applies to all, even to a former president. There's nothing wrong if we favor that. It would be better if the hearings are hastened rather than delayed this year."

Former President Fidel Ramos was asked yesterday on his return from a business trip to Bangladesh about the possibility of an alliance between Estrada and Aquino, who was in the forefront of the campaign to oust Estrada in 2001.

"Let them stay together," Ramos said, dismissing suggestions that he would join the two ex-Presidents.

Joining an alliance of the former Presidents, Ramos said, would depend on the performance of the ex-Presidents.

Filipinos want performance

"It's the performance, not personal or working individual relationships," Ramos said. "It is your performance that must be the gauge of whatever relationship you have as exes."

Ramos noted that retired heads of state in other countries continued to "devote their time and energy for the common good and not in pursuing any business, personal, or private or hidden agenda."

"With due respect to everybody," he said, Filipinos want "to see performance more than commitment, promises and intentions."

As for the coming 20th anniversary of Edsa I, Ramos urged the country to move on.

"I'll just say simply to all: Let us just move forward," he said.

"(Let's) stop harping on the past when we did not perform that well. But certainly we should learn from the past if at certain periods we performed very well," he said.

"It's a matter of exploiting the opportunity that's there so that we can move forward."

Ramos said that certainly, the bloodless revolution should still be commemorated, especially because lives were sacrificed leading to the ouster of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

He mentioned the assassination of former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., husband of former President Aquino.

Inspired other countries

Ramos also said that Edsa I also inspired many other countries to fight for their own democracies. This is something that the Philippines should be proud of, Ramos said.

However, Ramos said he had yet to be informed of the plans for the celebration of the Edsa anniversary which would take place two weeks from now.

OVERSTAYING TENANTS

3 ex-generals face eviction from camps

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

BRAGANZA

WHILE THE MILITARY CLAIMS IT IS HARD-pressed to provide housing for its soldiers, retired generals continue to enjoy comfortable quarters inside military camps.

Three retired generals, including President Macapagal-Arroyo's former senior military aide, face eviction today from their quarters inside Camp Aguinaldo where they have been overstaying for months.

Former Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza retired on Sept. 10, 2005, but managed to hang on to his quarters—a bungalow with a garage and garden.

Braganza became President Arroyo's first senior military aide after she took over from the ousted Joseph Estrada in January 2001.

A month after retiring, Braganza took his oath as "undersecretary for external affairs" of an unknown department.

Also set to be evicted today are Brig. Gen. Ramon Santos, who also retired in September, and former 2nd Infantry Division commander Maj. Gen. Efren Orbon who retired in December.

Stay of eviction

Santos, who co-chairs the government-Moro Islamic Liberation Front joint coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities, had asked for a stay of eviction until the Christmas holidays, but went on to overstay.

The three generals were given until today to leave their quarters for which they had been paying rent of only P1,000 a month, according to camp commander Brig. Gen. Jovenal Narcise.

"We're doing this to give way to younger officers who are making do with small quarters even though their families have grown," said Narcise, who assumed command of Aguinaldo in February 2005.

"There will be no more reprieve," he said.

As of yesterday afternoon, there were no signs that Braganza and his family were preparing to move out of the house at 435 Arevalo St. Reporters saw a BMW sedan and a Mitsubishi Lancer parked in the garage and some clothes hanging from a clothesline.

Housing program

Ms Arroyo herself had acknowledged that housing was a major problem in the military.

At the height of the coup rumors against her last month, she announced the release of P1.5 billion for the housing program for soldiers.

Under military housing regulations, officers and enlisted personnel have 30 to 60 days after the end of their tour of duty to vacate their quarters.

Braganza must have known this since he served as camp commander of Aguinaldo in 1998.

He was not qualified to avail of housing at the camp—which has only about 1,000 residential units—since the regulations disqualify those who already have homes in Metro Manila.

Braganza reportedly owns a house in Roxas district in Quezon City.

Last month two overstaying senior officers were finally evicted, namely, Commodore Salvador Esguerra, who retired in May 2005, and Col. Edmundo Gamad who was attrited from the service in March 2005.

Last August, Capt. Marlon Mendoza was evicted from his quarters at Camp Aguinaldo just days after testifying at a Senate hearing that he had heard ex-Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano boasting that alleged gambling lord Bong Pineda had given P300 million to the President's campaign kitty.

A military spokesperson said Mendoza was evicted because he had not paid rent for several months.

Indons top list of sex slaves in Japan

JAPAN REPORTED A record number of foreign sex slaves for the second consecutive year in 2005, with Indonesians making an appearance in significant numbers for the first time, police said Thursday.

The National Police Agency reported that 117 foreign women were recovered in 2005, up by 40 from the previous year and the highest number since it began compiling statistics in 2001.

Indonesians were the largest group of victims with 44 women recovered in 2005, up from zero in 2004.

Women from the Philippines were the second biggest group with 40 victims, up from 13 in 2004, followed by 21 from Thailand, down from 48.

The numbers are believed to represent only a fraction of the problem in Japan, where prostitution is illegal but widely tolerated.

Japan last year began imposing tighter requirements for visas given to "entertainers" after a damning 2004 study by US state department found that many women who arrived legally were drawn into sex slavery.

The new rules sparked protests outside the Japanese Embassy in Manila. *AFP*

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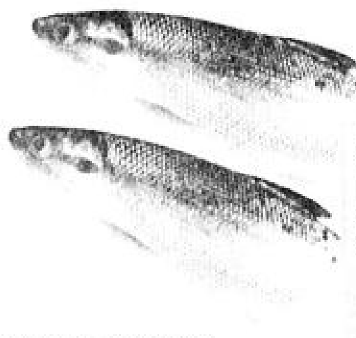

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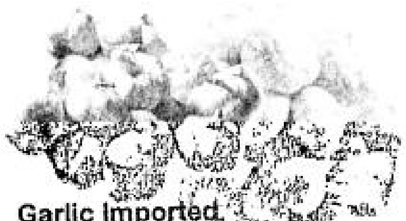

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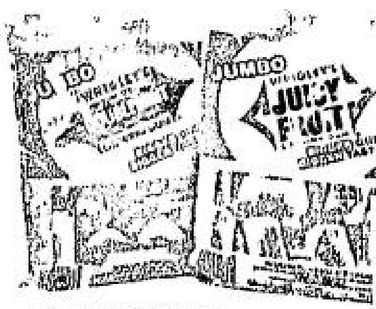

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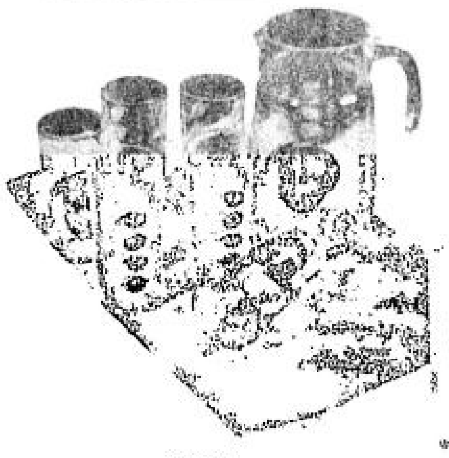

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US: Syria, Iran fanning cartoons rage

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES ON Wednesday accused Syria and Iran of using the international row over cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed to incite anti-West sentiment and violence for their own purposes.

As Washington grappled with mounting anger among Muslims over publication of the caricatures in Western newspapers, President George W. Bush condemned the violence while admonishing the media to be more "thoughtful" of others.

But Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice sharpened the political dimension of the controversy by charging Iran and Syria, two frequent targets of the Bush administration, with stoking sectarian feelings.

Emerging from talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, Rice said some Muslim countries were behaving responsibly but "there are governments that have also used this opportunity to incite violence."

"I don't have any doubt that ... Iran and Syria have gone out of their way to inflame sentiments and to use this to their own purposes. And the world ought to call them on it," she said.

Rice went further than previous US statements which accused Tehran and Damascus of not doing enough to rein in the violent protests over the satirical images of Mohammed first published in a Danish paper.

"Nothing justifies the violence that has broken out in which many innocent people have been injured," she said. "Nothing justifies the burning of diplomatic facilities or threats to diplomatic facilities around the world."

The United States and Europe have recently assailed Iran over its nuclear program and pressured Syria over its involvement in Lebanon and alleged role in the killing of former Lebanese Premier Rafiq Hariri.

Bush, meeting at the White House with Jordan's King Abdullah, said: "I call upon the governments around the world to stop the violence, to be respectful, to protect property, to protect the lives of innocent diplomats."

In his first public remarks on the global furor, Bush said he and Abdullah both rejected violence as a way to express discontent with the press. But the US president had a stern message for the media as well.

"We believe in a free press, and also recognize that with freedom comes responsibilities, that with freedom comes the responsibility to be thoughtful about others," he told reporters in the Oval Office.

Those comments highlighted the difficult US position in balancing a respect for press freedom with the needs of public diplomacy to reach out to the Muslim world enraged by caricatures of Islam's holiest figure.

US officials privately express frustration with the situation, which has seen violence erupt in Europe and across the Muslim world, with attacks on Western embassies and a worldwide death toll of 13 as of early Wednesday.

King Abdullah, the first Muslim world leader to discuss the issue with Bush since the controversy flared last week, also sought a middle line.

"With all respect to press freedoms, obviously, anything that vilifies the prophet Mohammed—peace be upon him—or attacks Muslim sensibilities needs to be condemned," the monarch said. *AFP*

A MEMBER of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron reacts as she and dozens other international observers leave their offices after the most violent Palestinian protest yet against Danish cartoons. AP

Over 1B living on less than $1 a day

UNITED NATIONS—A decade-long fight against poverty has ended with more of a whimper than a roar as officials and advocates say efforts to eliminate global poverty have fallen far short of the goals with over one billion people still living on less than $1 a day.

The conclusion came as members of the world body and outside antipoverty groups kicked off a 10-day review Wednesday of the first UN Decade to Eradicate Poverty from 1997 to 2006.

Looking back over the past decade, "we are forced to conclude that the picture is mixed," said Clare Short, a British parliamentarian and former international aid chief who was the keynote speaker at the opening of the review.

Significant poverty reduction has occurred in parts of East and South Asia and the Pacific regions, Short and others noted, but Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Latin America still suffer from the scourge of extreme poverty.

Countries in all regions continue to face "an array of growing inequalities in terms of wealth and income, based on gender and ethnic background, and between urban and rural areas," said UN expert Jose Antonio Ocampo. *AP*

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Iraq utilities worse off now than before US occupation

WASHINGTON—VIRTUALLY EVERY MEASURE of the performance of Iraq's oil, electricity, water and sewerage sectors has fallen below pre-invasion values even though $16 billion of US taxpayer money has already been disbursed in the Iraq reconstruction program, several government witnesses told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday.

Of seven different measures of infrastructure performance presented at the committee hearing by the inspector general's office, only one was above pre-invasion values.

Those that had slumped below those values were electrical generation capacity, hours of power available in a day in Baghdad, oil and heating oil production and the numbers of Iraqis with drinkable water and sewage service. Only the hours of power available to Iraqis outside Baghdad had increased over prewar values.

As Iraq's oil exports plummet and the country remains saddled with tens of billions of dollars of debt, it is unclear where that money will come from, said one of the witnesses, Joseph A. Christoff, director of international affairs and trade at the Government Accountability Office.

And those may not be the most serious problems facing the physical infrastructure, from pipelines and storage tanks to power lines and electrical switching stations, said

In one sense, focusing on the plummeting infrastructure performance numbers "misses the point," said Stuart W. Bowen Jr., the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, an independent office. The real question, he said, is whether the Iraqi forces will ever be able to protect the infrastructure from insurgent attack.

This downsizing of expectations was striking given that $30 billion US taxpayer money that has already been dedicated to reconstruction, according to an analysis by Christoff. Of that money, $23 billion has already been obligated to specific rebuilding contracts and $16 billion has been disbursed, Christoff said.

Bowen's office has pointed out that another $40 billion in Iraqi oil money and seized assets of Saddam Hussein's regime had also been made available for reconstruction at one time or another.

Christoff also brought another new figure to the hearing: He said that on a recent trip to Baghdad, he had been told by the US forces there that they would need another $3.9 billion to continue training and equipping Iraqi forces, in part so that they can better protect the infrastructure. *New York Times News Service*

THOUSANDS of Iraqi Muslim Shiite worshippers take part in the religious A
Karbala, Feb. 8.

Coalition shrinking significantly

By William J. Kole

VIENNA, AUSTRIA—THE UKRAINIANS ARE long gone. So are the Norwegians. The Italians and South Koreans are getting ready to leave, and the Britons and Japanese could begin packing their bags later this year.

Slowly but steadily, US allies in Iraq are drawing down or pulling out as Iraqi forces take more responsibility for securing the country. By year's end, officials say, the coalition—now 25 nations supporting a dwindling US contingent of 138,000—may shrink noticeably.

The continuing withdrawals and reductions will test the Iraqis' ability to tamp down attacks and rebuild, said Anthony Cordesman of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, warning in a new report: "It is too soon to predict the extent to which Iraqi forces can eventually replace coalition forces."

British withdrawal

Britain, with about 8,000 troops in Iraq, is the United States' most important coalition ally. Officials repeatedly have said they hope to begin bringing home some of those troops later this year, though Defense Secretary John Reid has played down recent reports that Britain has settled on a timetable for withdrawal.

"We are going to hand over to the Iraqi security forces ... whenever they are ready to defend their own democracy. We are there as long as we are needed and no longer," Reid said in a recent interview in London, stressing that any withdrawal would be done in stages.

On Tuesday, however, he also made clear that "if things in Iraq continue to progress as they are, there will be significantly fewer British forces there by next year."

Poland's new president, Lech Kaczynski, said his country might keep its scaled-down contingent of 900 troops in Iraq into 2007.

But other countries have abandoned the coalition, shrinking the overall size of the force to 157,500, including the roughly 138,000 US troops. The Pentagon says the American contingent itself has been cut to its lowest level since last summer, when a buildup for election security expanded the US force to about 160,000.

38 used to be 'willing'

In the months after the March 2003 invasion, the multinational force peaked at about 300,000 soldiers from 38 nations—250,000 from the United States, about 40,000 from Britain, and the rest ranging from 2,000 Australians to 70 Albanians.

Among the larger contributors to pull out of Iraq was Ukraine, which withdrew its last contingent of 876 troops in December.

Bulgaria also brought home its 380 infantry troops, and though it plans to send in 120 soldiers by mid-March to help guard a refugee camp north of Baghdad, those will be noncombat forces with limited rules of engagement.

Key coalition members such as South Korea and Italy—the United States' No. 2 and 3 partners in Iraq after Britain—will begin drawing down later this spring.

South Korean officials say they plan to bring home about 1,000 of their 3,270 troops in phases this year from their current base in the northern region of Irbil, where they help train Iraqi security forces and provide security for UN officials stationed in the area.

Although a timeframe and details have not been set, parliament in December approved the staged drawdown while extending the overall deployment to the end of the year. The South Koreans have not engaged in combat with insurgents, but their deployment nonetheless has been highly unpopular back home.

Italy, which has about 2,600 troops based in the southern city of Nasiriyah, announced last month it would withdraw all its forces by the end of 2006. Officials say the troops will be pulled out gradually and that the current contingent will be roughly halved by June, with civilians replacing soldiers in some tasks.

Japan, which has 600 noncombat troops in Samawah to purify water and carry out other humanitarian tasks, has officially denied media reports that it plans to begin bringing its forces home as early as March, with the withdrawal completed by May. *AP*

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Now, it's Africa that's facing bird flu epidemic

shura ceremony in the holy city of

AFP

ABUJA—AFRICA FOR THE FIRST TIME faces a catastrophic epidemic of bird flu after the deadly H5N1 strain spread to the continent, devastating poultry and threatening humans.

For the past month chickens at a farm in Jaji in northern Nigeria have been dying of the disease, which Nigerian officials at first mistook for a bacterial infection known as bird cholera, Agriculture Minister Amadu Bello said.

Now that the infection has been correctly identified at a United Nations laboratory in Italy, quarantine and culling procedures have been put in place, Bello said.

But an AFP reporter at Sambawa Farm found no sign of any quarantine operation, and international experts warned that Africa's rickety health systems might not be able to cope with a big outbreak.

"If the situation in Nigeria gets out of control, it will have a devastating impact on the poultry population in the region, said Samuel Jutzi, head of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO) animal health division.

"It will seriously damage the livelihoods of millions of people and it will increase the exposure of humans to the virus," he warned.

But traders in Kano, northern Nigeria's main commercial center, said that similar mystery disease outbreaks have been reported across the region and that farmers were rushing sick birds to market in order to avoid a blockade.

The World Health Organization said it was "very concerned" about the outbreak.

As South Africa and Mauritania led an expected rush to ban Nigerian poultry imports, experts warned that Africa's run-down public health infrastructure would struggle to cope.

"This is a worrying development ... It means that the disease has got a foothold on the continent," Jean-Luc Angot, deputy director general of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), said.

"Africa doesn't have sufficient infrastructure for veterinary surveillance and control. We think that other countries will be affected," he warned.

In Nairobi, Phillip Muthoka, a senior member of the Kenyan health ministry's Avian Influenza Task Force, said: "Many countries have trade links with Nigeria, this is serious."

Kenya and other east African countries, which like Nigeria are threatened by migrating birds bringing flu from infected areas of Asia and Europe, are facing a drought which could make matters worse, he said.

"People are malnourished and their immune systems are down. Also, with the high rates of HIV/AIDS infection, this has the potential to be a catastrophe.

"The government is cash-strapped already from the drought. If avian flu comes home to roost this is going to be an uphill battle," Muthoka warned.

Duncan Mwangi, an immunologist with Nairobi-based International Livestock Research Institute, said that culling birds was the only way to be sure of preventing the spread of the disease. *AFP*

A NIGERIAN sells chickens on the streets of Lagos, Feb.8. REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

US Capitol scare

WASHINGTON—A suspected nerve agent set off an alarm at a US Senate office building on Wednesday night, forcing the evacuation of about 200 people, including several senators, police and witnesses said. Tests on the material showed it was not a nerve agent, police said, and no one was showing any symptoms. Tests were continuing. The Russell Office building, across the street from the US Capitol where Congress meets, was evacuated after an alarm sounded indicating the possible presence of a nerve agent, police said. "Our tests initially indicated a nerve agent. A subsequent test has indicated that it is not a nerve agent," said Sgt. Kimberly Schneider of US Capitol police, standing outside the building. "Our experts are determining what the nerve agent was right now," Schneider said. *Reuters*

Oil-for-food scandal

SYDNEY—An Australian inquiry into alleged kickbacks paid to Iraq under the UN oil-for-food program claimed its first scalp on Thursday with the resignation of the chief executive of wheat exporter AWB. The resignation of AWB boss Andrew Lindberg came in the fourth week of an inquiry which has detailed how the wheat exporter allegedly paid some $220 million in kickbacks to secure $2.3 billion in wheat contracts with the regime of ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein under the 1996-2003 oil-for-food program. The inquiry was established by Prime Minister John Howard after a UN report into the oil-for-food program named AWB as one of more than 2,000 companies which had paid kickbacks to Baghdad when ruled by Saddam Hussein. *AFP*

Haiti counts votes

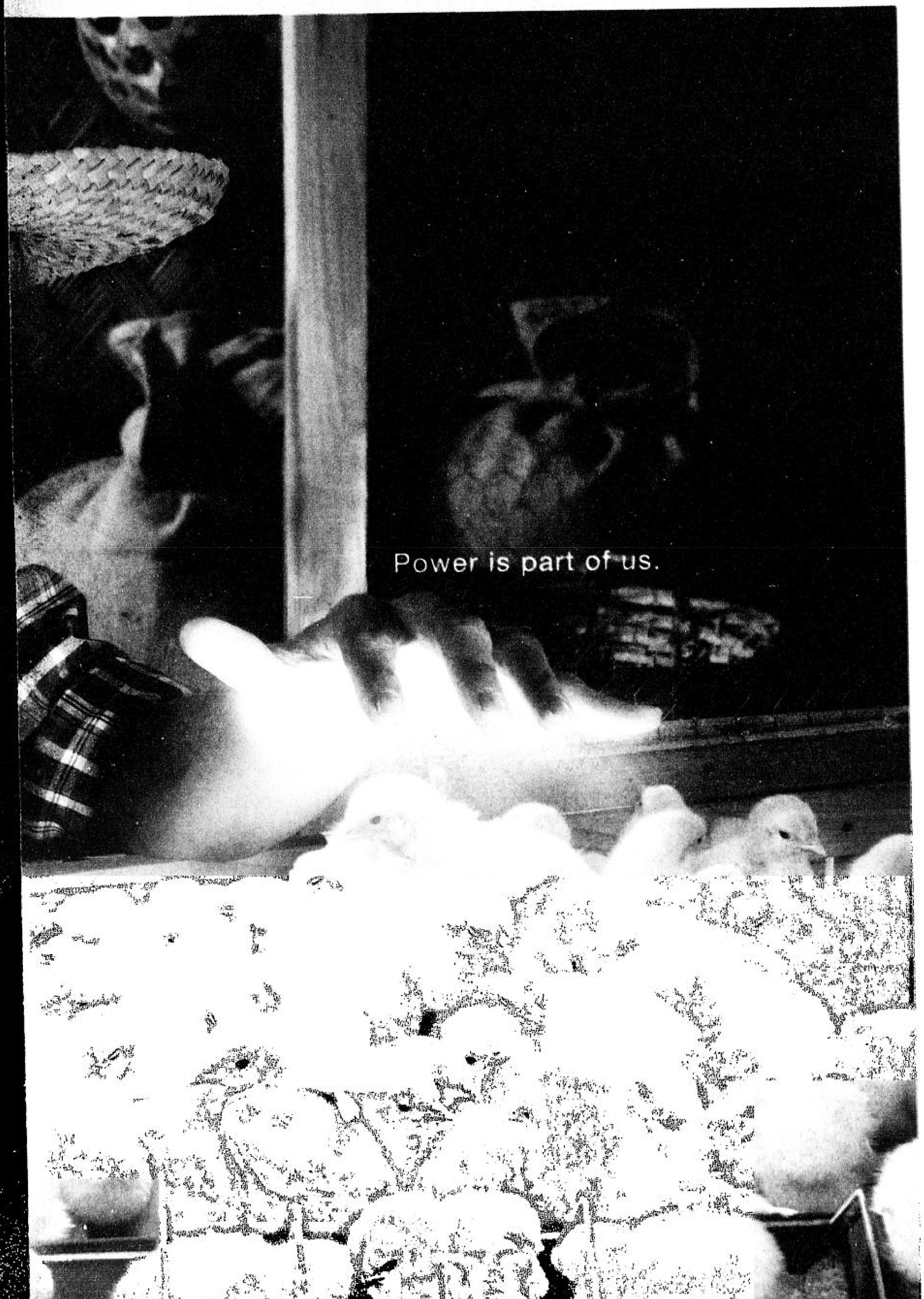
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—UN troops moved ballots by helicopter and mule across rural Haiti and the front-runner danced in a village square on Wednesday after the country's first presidential election since Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted two years ago. Vote counting moved into high gear but election authorities did not release any official results on Wednesday. They said they might have a few results on Thursday but a more complete vote count would take at least another two days. Tensions ran high and at least four people died in election-day incidents but a feared explosion of violence failed to materialize as Haitians cast ballots on Tuesday in what could prove the latest election to trouble Washington. US officials pressed Aristide to quit Haiti after a monthlong armed revolt in 2004 only to find his one-time ally Rene Preval the election favorite. *Reuters*

Action on global warming

WASHINGTON—A group of 85 evangelical Christian leaders on Wednesday backed legislation opposed by the White House to cut carbon dioxide emissions, kicking off a campaign to mobilize religious conservatives to combat global warming. The group which included mega-church pastors, Christian college presidents, religious broadcasters and writers, also unveiled a full-page advertisement to run in Thursday's New York Times and a television ad it hopes to screen nationally. "With God's help, we can stop global warming for our kids, our world and our Lord," the television spot declared. The campaign by evangelicals coincided with a call on Wednesday by a leading US think tank for the United States to take immediate steps to fight global warming, including working with other nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. *Reuters*

Abortion drug ban debate

CANBERRA—Australian senators voted on Thursday to remove an effective ban on abortion drug RU-486 after two days of emotive, personal and passionate debate that saw two high-profile politicians reveal their experiences with abortion. Senators voted 45 to 28 to remove the power of the health minister—currently conservative, Catholic, anti-abortionist Tony Abbott—to veto applications from companies and doctors who want to import and prescribe RU-486. The issue must now go to a vote in the lower house, where the result is expected to be much closer. Prime Minister John Howard, who has flagged his support for the health minister's veto, has allowed all MPs to vote freely. Lyn Allison, leader of the minority Australian Democrats, told the Senate she wanted RU-486 to be available to women in Australia because she knew what it was like to experience a surgical abortion. "An estimated one in three women have had an abortion and I am one of those," Allison told parliament. "It is galling listening to the men—and it is mostly men—who have such contempt for women who terminate unwanted pregnancies, who have neither the compassion, nor the understanding of the huge and, for many, daunting task of taking an embryo the size of a grain of rice to adulthood." *Reuters*



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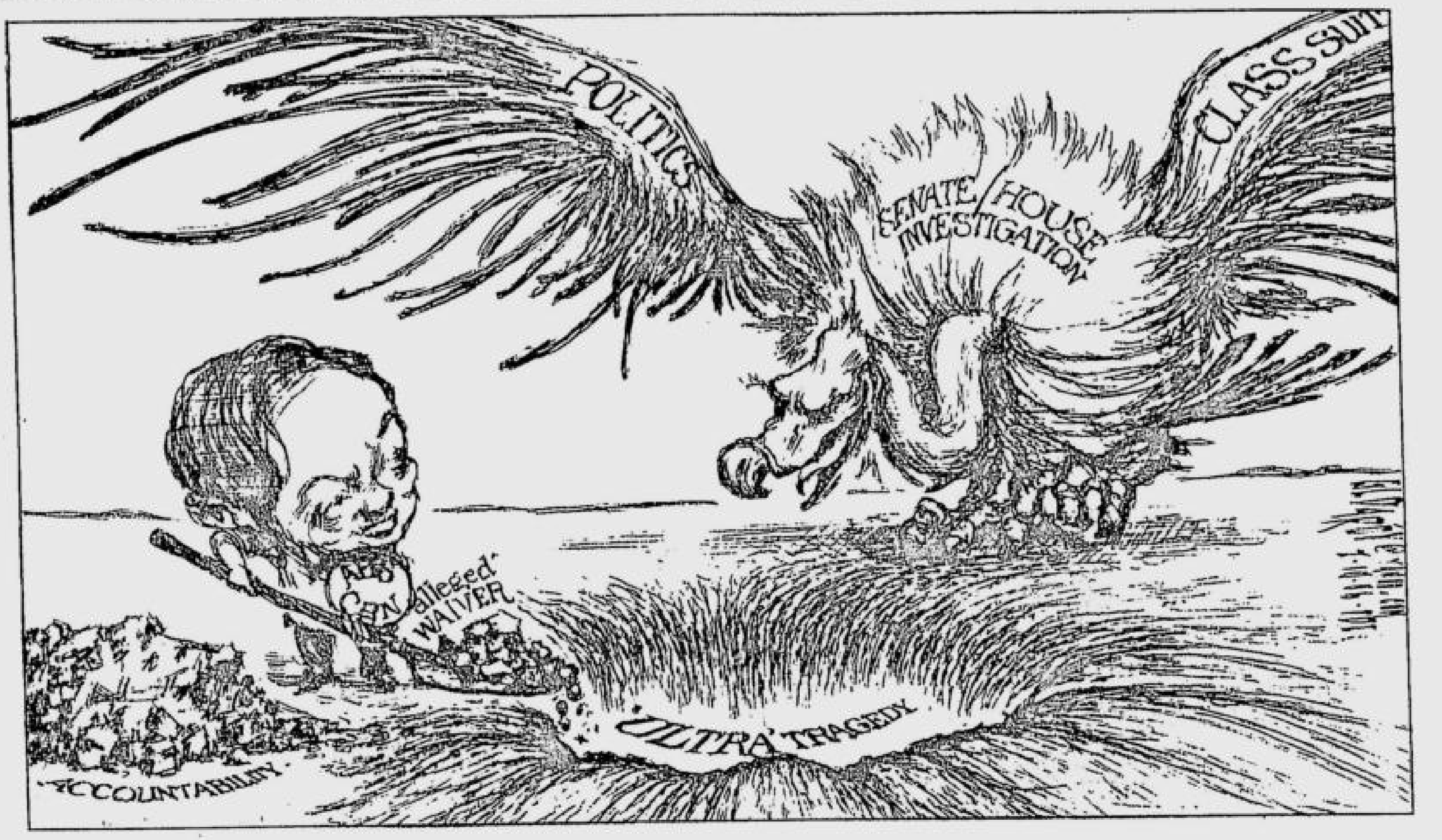


Selfish society

EDITORIAL

"AS THE PEOPLE ARE, SO IS THEIR GOVERNMENT," Jose Rizal once wrote. This is why he and so many of our 19th-century heroes were obsessed with inspiring the ethical behavior and introspection required to build a responsible citizenry. Indeed, a common theme in the writings of Rizal and Apolinario Mabini is the need for self-restraint, a fundamental requirement for a country to produce good leaders, and keep leaders from becoming obsessed with power and wealth.

The past few years saw a remarkable development, which normally despairing observers of society consider a cause for hope. This is the growing habit of commuters to fall in line while waiting for public transportation. This has been accompanied by efforts to either convince or force jeepney and bus drivers to line up their vehicles while waiting for passengers. How often have we heard over the last few years that at last it seems we can muster the discipline to patiently wait in line? And do so without having to have soldiers waving bayonets like they did in the early years of martial law.

There's the troubling question, though, of whether such a change is affecting only those who have jobs. One of the troubling discoveries from the ongoing investigations of the "Wowowee" stampede was that the audience itself demonstrated little discipline, and that in the crucial moments leading to the horror that was the stampede, there was not only a lot of pushing and shoving but also people trying to cut the line, any way they could.

This is not to pin blame on the huddled masses yearning to be part of the show. This is not to diminish the culpability of ABS-CBN or of the Pasig City government, the Philippine National Police, or the PhilSports Arena management. This is to point out that our national capacity for discipline is so superficial that the public should consider to what extent it has become a danger to itself.

Several commentaries in the INQUIRER's editorial pages and in other media have suggested that there is a growing tendency for Filipinos from all walks of life to be less considerate of each other. There is even a growing meanness toward the aged, the infirm, the weak and the young. There is such a cult of success—and the wrong kind of success, because it worships only celebrity, wealth and influence, regardless of how it was achieved—that leaves our society increasingly fragmented.

To be sure, this is nothing new: it has been pointed out that Philippine society was so fractured by World War II that it has never quite regained its cohesion since. Still at a basic level, Filipinos are more educated than at any time in the past. And while there are more and more of us, we should also be used to dealing with more and more of our fellow citizens on a daily basis. As a people, we are at least still capable of trying to resist a culture that thrives on fixers, on avoiding the law, on edging out the competition, whether for large gains or small. However, we must consider whether small gains, such as lining up for public transport, are enough.

One basic lesson arising from this tragedy then is that a society that fosters a sense of personal responsibility is one that is better prepared to insist on institutional responsibility. The wide gulf between the ordinary person and the institutions, whether networks, facility managers, city officials or police officers, only leads those in authority to blame the collective whole, instead of owning up to their individual culpability when things go wrong. The long list of wrongs—lines and crowds used as marketing gimmicks, the lack of a system to fairly and efficiently parcel out tickets, the shrugs that greeted the sight of people sleeping and relieving themselves on the streets, and the eagerness with which government people investigate private entities without investigating themselves—should not distract everyone from the larger wrong.

That larger wrong is the absence, now felt so concretely, of what an older generation of Filipinos knew as "good manners and right conduct." It was the aged and the very young, the unemployed or underemployed, in other words, the weak, who were edged aside, trampled upon and killed at Ultra.

It is the personal responsibility of each person, rich or poor, in a crowd or in a line, to recognize that the basic means of assuring good manners and right conduct is self-control. Refraining from throwing one's weight around, literally or figuratively, is not just polite. It can save lives, too.

Drilon on 'Kiss Ass' and 'Con-Ass'

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE ARE TWO THINGS WRONG WITH the fact-finding committee that investigated the stampede at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra): One is that the members are government officials and therefore can hardly be expected to find other government officials responsible for the stampede; second is that officers of police forces that have the duty of keeping crowds under control are in the investigating committee, so they can hardly be expected to find themselves negligent, *'di ba?*

As predicted, the committee was quick to point accusing fingers at scapegoats, without digging deeply into the roots of the tragedy.

What is needed is an independent body to investigate not only the immediate cause of the stampede and who were responsible but look back at the root causes of the extreme poverty that forced people to risk their lives in the hope of winning a few pesos in game shows like "Wowowee."

Perhaps the Department of Social Welfare and Development can interview survivors to get a physical and psychological profile of the people who go to such shows, what drove them to do that, and how they came to that stage. Then we would be able to put faces on poverty, and the government can devise policies to really lick poverty.

An independent body can point to the person or persons ultimately responsible not only for the stampede itself but for the root cause behind it, which is poverty. It is not difficult to pinpoint who that person is, even this early. It is the person who occupies the highest position in the land and whose duty is to try to eradicate poverty and help the poor. But who among the government officials in the present fact-finding committee will have the guts to point at the boss in Malacañang?

I've said it before and I'll say it again: Those tens of thousands of people would not have flocked to the PhilSports Arena if they were not desperately poor with no hope of getting a few pesos but from that game show. There would have been no stampede if they were not that desperate and nobody would have died.

The person ultimately responsible is the official who allowed the people to become so poor without adopting policies that would help them, like generating jobs for them. That is the person now sitting in Malacañang (without being elected to it, some say) and supposedly running the whole government (is she?): President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The tens of billions of pesos she announced recently for members of the military, the police, salary increases for government employees, for local government officials, etc. would be enough to generate jobs for the poorest of the poor. They would not flock to shows like "Wowowee" if they had jobs. But they have none and they have already lost hope of getting help from their President.

* * *

Our two women presidents may be on opposite sides of the political fence, but they have many similarities. President Corazon Aquino ousted President Marcos from Malacañang, had a new Constitution written, and is responsible for the Mendiola Massacre where 12 farmers were killed. President Arroyo always wants to do better. She stole the presidency not only from one elected president but from two, she also had her own Constitution written and now she is responsible not only for 12 deaths but for 74 at the PhilSports Arena.

There are differences, however. Aquino was prodded by her supporters to run for reelection but declined, saying one term was enough for her. GMA promised that she would not run for reelection but broke that promise and ran anyway. (She lost, some say, but a Congress dominated by her supporters proclaimed her winner anyway.)

Years after she retired, Cory is still loved by the people. GMA is still President, but the people hate her already.

* * *

According to reports, a number of people both in and outside the ABS-CBN management already recognized impending trouble when they saw the crowd growing outside the gates of the PhilSports Arena. But they didn't know what to do.

Yet a number of people have sent me text messages that they know exactly what should have been done to disperse the crowd: ABS-CBN could have announced to the crowd that Speaker Jose de Venecia would address them shortly, and the people would have left immediately.

* * *

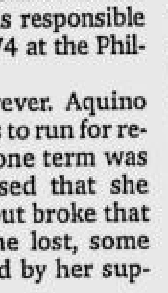
Senate President Franklin Drilon was the lone guest at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila, and among the many things that he revealed is that the new budget has a P5-billion appropriation for a program called "Kilos Asenso" (abbreviation: "Kiss-Ass") and a P3 billion "Kalayaan Fund." Nobody in the Senate knows where the money is coming from or how the money is to be spent.

Charter change, which the administration is pushing, is as good as dead, according to Drilon. To begin with, the Consultative Commission ("ConCom") that drafted a new Charter has no legal personality to even exist. The President is not even authorized to create it. The Constitution does not mention any consultative commission or any power of the President to appoint one, Drilon pointed out.

In the second place, a resolution to convene a constituent assembly (Con-Ass) has no hope of being passed by the Senate. And the people's initiative local government officials are talking about (even assuming that the Supreme Court would reverse its decision against it) is intended only for piecemeal amendments, not for revision of the whole Constitution. The parliamentary system that they are insisting is a revision, not a mere amendment, said Drilon.

McDonald's and the middle-class parent

PASSION FOR REASON



Raul C. Pangalangan

GOURMANDS AND HEALTH BUFFS MAY rebuff McDonald's, but for me, it is heaven-sent. When my kids were still small, for the price of a Happy Meal, I would have several very happy, very small persons in my car.

One time, on a long drive to Sagada, I showed a road map to a McDonald's crew (somewhere in Nueva Ecija, I think), asking how far north was the next Golden Arches food stop. I needed the peace of mind that came with knowing that should the kids get hungry and restless along the way, we could find sanctuary in a shrine of fast-food cuisine. (Having seen the documentary "Supersize Me," let me warn you against relying on Big Macs as your dietary staple.)

In a recent forum in Europe, a sociologist bravely faced an indignant audience when she said that, in Third World countries, fast-food restaurants represent predictability, modernity and democracy.

I support her view. They embody predictability, boring for gourmets but assuring for frazzled parents. How can I go wrong? A Big Mac in Makati tastes the same as a Big Mac in Dalton Pass. If I have my hands full with hungry, frisky kids, will I take a risk bringing them to a local *carinderia*, authentic and full of local character, but possibly unmonitored by the town's hygiene and sanitation officer? Or will I march along with my smiling kids to a clean, bright, air-conditioned McDonald's?

For poorer parents, it provides the entrée to middle-class gentrification. For a few pesos and at fixed prices, they can give their children a taste of the good life. In our highly stratified society, where big money controls the gates even to middle-class respectability, fast-food outlets provide access to goodies beyond the reach of feudal control, accessible to anyone with a little cash, and delivered hot by smiling staff, trained in time-and-motion studies developed in their very own Hamburger University.

For the homegrown Pinoy, McDonald's is a taste of food they had only seen in movies, a fast-paced and practical lifestyle identified with the modern world. How else could Aling Patring dine on pancakes and maple syrup for breakfast, having thrived on *tapsilog* as morning repast for most of her life?

Believe it or not (and I am not pulling your leg), there is in fact a "Golden Arches Theory of Conflict Prevention"—in other words, the McDonald's theory of world peace. It says: "No two countries that both had McDonald's had fought a war against each other since each got its McDonald's."

Thomas Friedman, Pulitzer Prize-winning foreign affairs columnist for the New York times, wrote the book "The Lexus and the Olive Tree," on the clash between globalization and the ancient forces of culture and tradition. He explains that when a country reaches an economic level where it has a middle class big enough to support a McDonald's network, the "cost of war [becomes] much higher for both victor and vanquished" and if before they "thought twice before trying to solve problems through warfare, [today] they will think about it three times." Going to war simply doesn't make sense in the cost-benefit calculus of the newly prosperous.

Friedman concludes: "People in McDonald's countries don't like to fight wars anymore, they prefer to wait in line for burgers—and those leaders [who] ignore that fact will pay a much, much higher price than they think."

The following words from Friedman can shed some light on the recent "Wowowee" stampede: "[W]ith all due respect to … Frantz Fanon, the fact is, the wretched of the earth want to go to Disneyworld, not to the barricades. They want the Magic Kingdom, not Les Misérables."

At the PhilSports Arena this past weekend, the wretched in our small patch of the earth waited as a horde for their own escape to paradise. I wonder how many middle-class wage-earners would have found it sensible and cost-wise to wager three days lining up, on the chance they might win the cash prizes being raffled off.

Ordinarily, people find jobs, work hard and save money—in other words, they act and plan rationally for the future. But in our desperate straits, more money can be made waiting to get lucky in a TV raffle than by holding a job.

It is easy to conclude that desperation made the stampede inevitable, easier still for a government prober to liken the crowd to "a pack of hungry wolves," in that pathetic and bungled attempt at literary flourish. But what should give us pause is the long-term tragedy. Frantz Fanon's "wretched of the earth" have now turned away from revolution and become passive consumers of mindless TV fare. At least before, it was possible to talk to the ideologues, the less dogmatic among them anyway. But what I saw on TV about the crowd at the Edsa III attack on Malacañang and at the PhilSports Arena were the faces of the inarticulate mass, unable to express (at Edsa III) why they felt so outraged by Erap's imprisonment, unable to dream (at the PhilSports Arena) of a future beyond the luck of the draw at this week's lottery.

The next time you see students using the nearest McDonald's (or our very own Jollibee) as their surrogate library, where they hang out to do their homework in air-conditioned comfort, stretching their order of fries and Coke for as long as they need to keep their table, you must rejoice. It means that there is a next generation of Filipinos prepared to make rational and common-sense decisions, and to seek their dreams not in the utopian futures of lottos and revolutions, but in good old-fashioned hard work.

It is our task, as the older generation, to make sure that that remains possible.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Roles of State and Church

(Concluded from Monday)

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PART II OF THE FIRST ENCYCLICAL OF POPE Benedict XVI is devoted to the contentious issue of separation of Church and State, an issue that has taken a high profile amid the political militancy of a group of Filipino bishops who have been outspoken in the movement calling for the early exit of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The question of Church intervention in secular politics is once again going to be highlighted in the run-up to the 20th anniversary commemoration of the 1986 People Power Revolution, in which the Church played a crucial role in the mass mobilization leading to the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship.

The release of the encyclical on Jan. 25 is therefore timely as it provides guidelines to Filipino bishops and lay people of the parameters of the relationship between Church and State. It also opens a window into the new Pope's attitudes toward the Philippine Church's political activism—an interventionist tendency that is as alarming as military political intervention that grew out of the February 1986 military uprising led by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Gen. Fidel Ramos against the Marcos regime.

Part two of the encyclical, titled "Caritas, the Practice of Love by the Church as a Community of Love," should therefore be interpreted by the bishops, lay people and secular politicians with caution. A careful reading of the document shows it is a nuanced, balanced document that does not encourage excessive political activism by bishops. Neither does it offer comfort to secular regimes that have become engulfed by crisis over political acts that have been denounced by civil society groups, like the alleged rigging of the 2004 election, a political and democratic process that is the foundation of the legitimacy of a democratic government's right to rule. The encyclical comes in handy as the bishops navigate tricky waters to steer a middle ground between the political activism of a group of militant bishops and being used by the government to deflect the call for political reform.

So, for the purpose of making available to the Filipino public a basis for making judgments on whether the Church has crossed the great divide separating it from the State and on what constitutes justice and political morality—a political value that has been appropriated by self-righteous political groups and individuals in making rash conclusions about political legitimacy and morality—relevant portions of the encyclical are being reproduced below.

We begin with this section: "The just ordering of society and the State is a central responsibility of politics. As Augustine once said, a State which is not governed according to justice would be just a bunch of thieves."

The encyclical reminds us that "fundamental to Christianity is the distinction between what belongs to Caesar and what belongs to God," in other words the distinction between Church and State, or, as the Second Vatican Council put is, the autonomy of the temporal sphere.

"The State may not impose religion, yet it must guarantee religious freedom and harmony between followers of different religions. For her part, the Church, as the social expression of Christian faith, has a proper independence and is structured on the basis of her faith as a community which the State must recognize. The two spheres are distinct, yet always interrelated.

"Justice is both the aim and the intrinsic criterion of all politics. Politics is more than a mere mechanism for defining the rules of public life; its origin and its goals are found in justice, which by its very nature has to do with ethics….

"The Church's social teaching argues on the basis of reason and natural law, namely, on the basis of what is in accord with the nature of every human being. It recognizes that it is not the Church's responsibility to make this teaching prevail in political life. The Church wishes to help form consciences in political life and to stimulate greater insight into the authentic requirements of justice as well as greater readiness to act accordingly.

"Building a just social and civil order, wherein each person receives what is his or her due, is an essential task which every generation must take up anew. As a political task, this cannot be the Church's immediate responsibility. Yet, since it is also a most important human responsibility, the Church is duty-bound to offer, through the purification of reason and through ethical formation, her own specific contribution towards understanding the requirements of justice and achieving them politically.

"The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the State. Yet at the same time, she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. She has to play her part through rational argument and she has to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice… cannot prevail and prosper.

"A just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the Church. Yet the proportion of justice through efforts to bring about openness of mind and will to the demands of the common good is something which concerns the Church deeply.

"The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society, on the other hand, is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity. So they cannot relinquish their participation in the many different economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural area, which are intended to promote organically and institutionally the common good."

Beyond ratings

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHILE "MEDIANATION 2" LOOKED AT THE RElationships between the owners of media institutions and the media professionals they employ, and of the media industry as a whole with the public, "MediaNation3" brought in the advertisers, the "third leg" in the media tripod.

In many ways, the "third leg" may prove the most crucial, since it is money from advertising that sustains most media operations. But early on in this year's edition of MediaNation, an annual gathering of media professionals convened by pagbabago@pilipinas, the representatives of the advertising industry made clear where their "bottom line" lay: the ratings. As an advertising executive said, their clients care only about reaching the greatest number of consumers at the least possible cost.

As far as advertising in the Philippines is concerned, we're talking TV advertising, since, as a presentation by Nielsen Media Research's Jay Bautista revealed, 75 percent of the approximately P10 billion spent by advertisers last year went to television. And of that amount, 76 percent was spent on shows in two stations: GMA-Channel 7 and ABS-CBN Channel 2.

Much of the TV advertising money went to entertainment shows, with entertainment earning about six times the amount spent on news and public affairs shows in the two dominant channels.

And how do advertisers—upon the advice of their advertising agencies—choose which shows to support and which to leave high and dry? By looking at the ratings (the number of viewers who tune in to a particular show) as measured by surveys as well as by devices implanted in TV sets that tells pollsters to what channels the sets are tuned on to and at what time. As an aside, Bautista made clear that the devices can only track what channels the sets are tuned on to, not what the household members are doing at the time. "You can be sleeping but have the TV set turned on," Bautista noted.

* * *

CONCERNS were raised about the impact of this obsession with ratings, even of news and public affairs shows, can have on the quality of the media content. Does product excellence equal audience share?

Boy Pangilinan of Campaigns and Gray said ratings, and viewership, can be one measure of quality: "For how can you say your show is any good if people don't watch it?"

But as columnist Jarius Bondoc said at our "small group" discussion, it's been proven that, given a choice between sober intellectual discourse and shows with more popular appeal, most people, even those among the educated classes, would opt to be entertained and titillated.

So, do we "give the market what it wants?" If so, then we will find nothing on TV but game shows like "Wowowee" and newscasts filled with stories about crime and mayhem, preferably with video of bloodied corpses and starlets in violent arguments, show-biz reports, and yes, yet another story about the discovery of a "*sawa.*"

This was what disturbed many "MediaNation" participants: that the requirement to rate forces news and public affairs operations to "dumb down" their coverage or else pander to the basest instincts of human beings. An example was cited of one high-rating public affairs show which sees its ratings tumble whenever it airs a serious investigative piece, forcing its producers to come up with a sensational but shallow episode for the next week or so until its "numbers" have recovered.

* * *

DON'T get us wrong, media practitioners by and large like ratings—or readership in the case of print journalists. We like nothing better than knowing that a large number of people watch, listen to or read us.

But can a happy middle ground be found between popularity (as measured by ratings) and doing our job right? Minyong Ordoñez, the venerable voice of advertising at the summit (along with JJ Calero), had a suggestion: the marketing of news and public affairs shows to a few advertisers who would be willing to pay "premium" rates as an expression of support to quality programming as well as a way to gain prestige for their product, free from the much-bemoaned "clutter" that now plagues the airwaves. With a few advertisers guaranteeing support regardless of how they rate, these news and public affairs shows would presumably then be able to operate profitably without constantly keeping an eye out for viewers' preferences.

Another suggestion was to approach advertisers, through Pana, for a seed fund for quality media content. A suggestion was forwarded for Pana members to devote any amount from 1 to 10 percent of their total advertising budgets to support "quality" shows—or media products. The beneficiaries could be determined by a committee composed of advertisers, media professionals and sectoral representatives.

* * *

MEDIA folk would have no problem with advertisers who insist on using the ratings as their sole guide to where to invest their advertising money if only they would shut up already about the need for "quality," "intelligent," or "sober" shows, and stop bemoaning the shallowness, sexual exploitation or crassness of most popular entertainment. Often enough, the executives and business leaders mouthing off about the need for media to contribute to nation building are the same ones placing their advertising in the most offensive shows. Only in rare instances, after the most scandalous behavior has been broadcast, are advertisers moved or offended enough to pull out their ads, or at least threaten to do so.

I'm not advocating that advertisers be given the power to influence media content—which they already exercise to some extent. But simply by broadening their standards—prestige along with ratings, or public service along with popularity—advertisers can begin to change media content for the better.

Bencab revisits his early career

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

FOR SOMEONE WHO MAKES A LIVING WITH words—both written and spoken—it was difficult to find an appropriate one-word description for the latest exhibition of works by the eminent Filipino artist Bencab that opened in Singapore over the weekend. While "exciting" immediately comes to mind, it is, at best, an understatement given the varied large-scale prints and paintings produced through a fruitful collaboration between Bencab and the Singapore Tyler Print Institute in 2005.

Having abandoned the etching plate for paint and canvas, the STPI residency was a welcome break for Bencab, who was given the chance to revisit the muse of his early career. With the facilities at STPI, Bencab was able to push the parameters of his craft by exploring new techniques, new technology. Even the colors in his Singapore works are different from those on his palette in the Philippines. Then there was the possibility of producing prints in a large size which was not possible in his etching press back home.

Being abroad provided a retreat from Bencab's normal routine and the social pressures of being one of the country's most sought after painters, resulting in the present exhibition of new works that, we are told, will be mounted in a homecoming show of sorts in Manila, perhaps at the CCP Main Gallery, later this year.

As a historian, it is a professional hazard, a professional bias perhaps, for me to be drawn to Bencab's visual vocabulary culled from a deep well of 19th-century photographs of the Philippines and the Filipinos. As a scholar and a collector of Filipiniana, I have come across illustrations in old books and magazines, postcards, maps, prints and stereoscopic cards, glass positives and other ephemeras that have been transformed by Bencab's eye and craft into works that speak to us who live in a different time and place. In the only negative review Bencab has ever received in his entire career, one harsh critic saw nothing but useless nostalgia in the artist's work more popularly known as "Larawan" (literally picture or likeness). He even suggested that Bencab return these images into the musty grandmother's *baul* where they came from and there be consigned to the past and devoured by silverfish and other vermin.

We beg to disagree, for one arresting image from this exhibition depicts a Filipina nanny carrying a cute Caucasian baby. Originally shot at the turn of the last century, the same old image appropriated by Bencab manages to speak to us in the 21st century. Then comes the painful realization that a century has passed and Filipinas are still playing nanny to other peoples' children both at home and abroad. It is an image that has particular resonance in Singapore, a work we would have entitled with a paradox: "Contemporary History."

Bencab's works have always had this double-edge. Underneath the pop nostalgia is seething social commentary. One would think that Bencab, through his works, steps over the task of the historian more forcefully and, mercifully, with fewer words.

The opening was well-attended, with some friends and collectors flying in from Manila for the event: Claude and Maryann Tayag, Gigi Montinola, Phyllis Zaballero, Jeffrey and Jenny Co, Sylvana Diaz, Nestor Pagulayan, Marivic Vazquez, Jonathan Matti and others lost in the crowd or walking about the galleries surprised by the size and scale of these new works. They showed how the STPI residency pushed the limits of Bencab's craft to reveal a wide range of promise and possibilities. We can only wish that Bencab will return for another STPI residency and, if possible, stay longer to produce yet another series of fascinating works.

* * *

Last Tuesday, a small but fascinating exhibition of the illustrated journals of Anita Magsaysay-Ho opened at the Ateneo de Manila University Rizal Library. The artist was in attendance and everyone was talking of the latest book on her paintings by Alfredo Roces, "In Praise of Women," which is literally and figuratively a heavyweight in the current crop of coffee-table books. The book on Magsaysay-Ho comes in a special boxed, limited edition, reminding me that most publications on Philippine art or artists are oversized, glossy and rather expensive coffee-table books. Consequently, they are rarely consulted after one has flipped through the pictures soon after they are acquired or borrowed.

While some books are read for pleasure and others read for work, there are welcome additions to our shelves that can be read for both reasons, like the recently published "Discovering Manansala" by Ma. Isabel Nazareno, a promising young historian who is with the Ateneo's history department. In a clear way, she presents Manansala's life and works within a historical context. Her book is simple but substantial. It is one work on Manansala that can literally be taken as bedside reading, unlike the landmark work on the artist that is so heavy it has to be consulted reverently on a table rather than enjoyed on your lap. This is the second publication of the Museum Foundation of the Philippines that aims to bring museums, art and artists to a wider general audience, and we hope it will not be the last.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Dare imagine

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"CAN WE BE FAULTED FOR OFFERING PEOPLE HOPE?" "AT least we make people laugh."

I'm paraphrasing the main arguments used by people in the entertainment industry following the barrage of criticism raised against shows like "Wowowee." "It's what people want" is still another argument that you hear.

You know what? I agree—to some extent. These no-brainer shows are what people want, but only because they've never had a taste of alternatives. So for today's column, let me try first to dissect why the no-brainers work, and then propose some alternatives.

'Perya'

First, what is it that make "Wowowee" and "Eat Bulaga" click? When you think hard about it, what we're seeing are modern versions of the *feria* (or *perya*), with a bit of the circus thrown in. The fairs appealed mainly to the poor: there were no entrance fees because money was to be made with individual booths offering rides, games and entertainment. Today's noontime shows are similar: they offer free entrance and promise fun and possible fortune, the show organizers making their money from corporate sponsors (who, in turn, hope to convert audiences into loyal consumers).

The *perya* offered entertainment with freak shows and exhibits like the half-snake, half-human. Today's noontime shows entertain people at the cost of parading and making fun of people who are different, from singing *ngongos* (people with cleft palates) to transvestite beauty contests. For good measure, they throw in a few "real" women dancing in the background, in various stages of undress.

The draw of the *perya* was in its games. Some, like shooting galleries, required a bit of skill, but most really depended on chance. The prizes were small, but the chances were actually quite good that people would leave the *perya* with something.

Today's network shows offer larger prizes, but with far lower chances of winning. To make up for that, the organizers have to find other ways of drawing people in, starting with the chance to see celebrities in the flesh. Contestants are drawn from the audience, but never mind if you don't make it, the show organizers will make sure there's a lot of audience participation, even if it's limited to cheering the contestants. The adrenaline comes from vicarious pleasure, from being part of the crowd.

Since all this is televised, the organizers have to find a way to reach the thousands of televiewers as well. They've worked it out quite well: send in your name, on wrappers of the sponsors' products, of course, and you too stand a chance of winning. Meanwhile, sit back and enjoy the freak shows, the dancing women, the desperate contestants.

Barrio

It works. I saw it again this week, visiting Barrio, an urban poor community not too far from ABS-CBN. Drop in around noon and you find almost everyone watching these modernized *perya* shows.

It's enough to make you despair. I watched one household where there were six young people, aged 16 to 24, mesmerized by the shows. All were jobless; all were out of school.

Many of the people there will actually go over to ABS-CBN to try to get into one of the noontime shows. There are stories of people who won prizes, nothing big, but it's enough to keep people's hopes going.

Our televised no-brainer *perya* shows work because they imitate life, reinforcing existing norms that a good life can come only through fate, chance or the benevolence of rich patrons.

Alternatives?

There are alternative show formats, some of which are already being used in other countries. Let me name just a few of the possibilities:

Other countries have shows that reward initiative—for example, innovative small businesses. The shows feature the business itself, with the entrepreneur recalling how she started out and built up, often slowly, her business. In the Philippines, it could take the "Maalaala Mo Kaya" format, as the entrepreneur explains the blood, sweat and tears that finally brought success.

It doesn't have to be business ventures only. Why not something like "BBC Challenge," which featured projects from around the world that tried to address an environmental problem? "BBC World" actually ran a whole series on these projects, and then had people voting, through the Internet, for their favorite. A Filipino, Justino Arboleda, won for his use of coconuts to prevent erosion and he's hardly mentioned in local mass media.

Maybe we could up the ante here by having people, NGOs or even an entire barangay submit small-scale proposals around income-generating projects, environmental conservation or dealing with some social problem. The network foundations could pick out several projects each week to fund, feature them on TV as they explain their plans, and then return to them in six months, featuring both successes and failures. Again, an entertainment format can be used here as the events are reenacted: how did one barangay deal with their drug problem, for example. Ratings? You'll have entire barangays glued to the television set as they watch themselves doing some good for their communities. Now, that's reality TV.

Why not prizes, in these shows, for people from the audience who are able to answer very practical questions about Philippine geography or history, flora and fauna, national heroes (and national scoundrels), drugs, family planning, traffic rules and regulations, disaster management? The cell phone companies could offer prizes as well for people who can text in the correct answers.

Not entertaining enough? Depends. I've watched Chinese dating shows where "searchers" and "searchees" try to impress each other with their intellectual capability, even while answering questions about their views of the world, of life and of love. They're quick, they're witty, and can still end up seductive and naughty. The audience loves it, cheering and jeering.

There's room for celebrities, too. In England, Jamie Oliver made waves rising from his working-class background to do a very successful TV cooking show. The success came not with upper-class pretensions but by being down to earth and practical. He's since branched out, offering other working-class kids scholarships to cooking schools and featuring them on his show. The ones who succeed are praised, the ones who fail get tough, but still supportive, advice from him. He's also started a campaign to get junk food out of Britain's schools, by offering recipes for alternative healthy meals. The politicians noticed, and now he's a consultant for the school feeding programs.

For the entertainment industry to say all this won't work in the Philippines is to insult the Filipino. It's saying we (or more often, "the poor," "the masses") are too dumb to handle shows that require skills and cerebral activity even as their shows do dumb down the Filipino. Who among the networks and entertainment industries will be bright enough, imaginative enough, bold enough to reverse the trend?

Pursuing freedom of the press at expense of religious beliefs?

I WATCHED WITH HORROR ON CABLE TV the row over the cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad with a bomb-shaped turban. I am not a Muslim. I am more of a free-believer. Nonetheless, I sympathize with the countless poor and marginalized Muslims around the world who feel insulted by the cartoons.

The issue has been presented as a choice between press freedom and respect for religion. The Danish editor of the paper which published the cartoons said that no religion should impose its will on the public domain. I think he is missing the point. I have this notion that religious belief often forms the only source of identity and hope for a group of people who feel oppressed and exploited by outside forces.

Now, Muslim immigrants in Europe and the United States often experience racism and discrimination. Many remain jobless and mired in poverty. The situation in the Arab world is worse. There, dictatorial and oppressive governments are propped up by the United States just because they are pro-West. It is in this context that most Muslims find the controversial cartoons on their Prophet Muhammad very insulting.

Press freedom? Why don't the Western media protest more about racism and discrimination against Muslims in Denmark and Western Europe? Why don't they complain more about the lack of democracy in the Arab world?

More often than not, the issue of press freedom arises when the one repressing it is the state. Muslims are not in power. They form a marginalized group in Denmark and the rest of Western Europe.

The Muslims are pressuring the media to conform to the Islamic prohibition on the depiction of Muhammad? Come on, mainstream Muslim groups are only asking the media to respect their religion and to apologize.

Talk about a sense of balance, not to mention cultural sensitivity. As far as I know, there has never been any cartoon in the West that even remotely suggested Jesus Christ (arguably the equal of Muhammad among Christians) as someone who had something to do with violence.

Ultimately, the question is: Is press freedom more important than the right of a sector or a community of people to have their religious beliefs and traditions respected? In this particular case, I believe the answer is "No."

—JAIME ESCOBER JR.,
Block 16, Lot 49,
Sugartowne Homes,
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Yorac and Sabio: hope and injustice

WE, THE COCONUT FARMER-MEMBERS of the Alyansa sa mga Maglulubi-sa Mindanaw representing 17 coconut-producing provinces, vehemently oppose the compromise deal on the coconut levy funds, which is being promoted by new PCGG (Presidential Commission on Good Government) Chair Camilo Sabio and some coconut farmers' groups. After our legal victories, we see no reason for such a compromise.

The Supreme Court categorically declared that the coconut levy funds are "prima facie" public funds. The Sandiganbayan, for its part, has already ruled that the CIIF-SMC shares of stock belong to the government "in trust" for all coconut farmers. Why, then, should we entertain any thought of a compromise agreement with the camp of businessman Eduardo Cojuangco?

Not only is Sabio's behavior detestable, it is downright insulting. After enduring decades of injustice and poverty, we finally found hope that our lot could yet be made better. Sabio's able predecessor, the late Haydee Yorac, gave us that hope. Now that hope has been dashed by Sabio who, together with Bishop Fernando Capalla, has begun selling the idea of a compromise deal involving the coco levy funds. Entering into such an agreement is inconsistent with the previous stance of Yorac, who during her term, advocated for the full recovery of the coco levy funds. Yorac argued that there is no need to enter into any compromise agreement because of the victories in the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan. Sabio's actions would reverse all our victories.

We have lost confidence in the incumbent PCGG chief. By declaring that he is open to a compromise deal, Sabio has practically handed the coconut levy funds to Cojuangco and betrayed the small coconut farmers. Clearly, he no longer represents the interests of the small coconut farmers. He should resign his post.

—JUN ADORABLE,
chair, Alyansa sa mga Maglulubi
sa Mindanaw (AM-Mindanaw), 2/F
Kristine Pawnshop, Toril, Davao City

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Wowowee!

(A letter on last Sunday's "Wowowee" tragedy, from a Filipina watching it in Australia, stood out this week for shock and sorrow that we would do well to burn in deep memory.)

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

HERE WE ARE THIS MORNING ON A TYPICAL day, turning on to The Filipino Channel to see what's going on back home. I knew it was Willie Revillame's day, the much heralded first anniversary of what he calls the people's television show, "Wowowee."

And what a start it was, the reporter saying something about 65 people killed in a stampede! This is not how it was supposed to be. You're supposed to see thousands of people mesmerized by the booming beat of the show's opening song, clapping and singing along as this China lady host struts with the DJ, screaming a hoarse, coarse welcome to the show and introducing the "*sagot sa lahat ng kahirapan ng bayan* host," Revillame.

I must admit that some of the antics of our *kababayan* are entertaining, until I realized they were performing for that extra $50 Willie might hand out if they're really good and in dire need. You see people divided according to class: on one end, the haves—global TFC subscribers and the occasional OFW; on the other, the have-nots—easily spotted on the upper rafters with hands raised, screaming Willie's name to pick them for a once-in-a-lifetime chance

Never mind that they had to queue for days, rain or shine, just to get into this show. After all, didn't Willie say that "Wowowee" is their show?

Days before the much publicized anniversary, he kept repeating the prizes in store like a mantra: two jeepneys, two houses and lots and, to top it all, the much awaited highlight: thousands of US dollars the "haves" had given daily finally to be given away to ticket holders.

How hard could it get? Why, even a 71-year-old lola and a 4-year-old child were among the 74 people dead that day. It was after all, their show and their anniversary, a chance to win. How could people still smile, wave at the cameras, show placards when less than 20 meters away lay (dead) bodies?

Tonight I couldn't sleep. I wept uncontrollably for the families of those who died. I could imagine how the families must have felt about losing their loved ones—and for what?

They were all duped into thinking they could win. People traveled from far-flung provinces not to just sit and watch, but to take their chance and hope "*kapalaran*" would deal them a good hand. The whole affair cost them their lives and deeply affected the lives of their families.

And so I blame:

1. Revillame for giving these people false hopes. What are the chances in a show that is still, after all, a game of luck?
2. ABS-CBN, "our *kapamilya*," for egging him on to continue happily collecting dollars on the show for all our poor *kababayan* to dream of, as ABS-CBN played the ratings game against "Eat Bulaga!"
3. TFC subscribers who could very well just "quietly" hand out the money instead of showing their benevolence to the world and friends back home.
4. Myself, for watching this stupid show and not writing about it earlier.
5. The rich and powerful, who could have done not just charity, but an honest treatment of have-nots by staying clean, honest and fair.

Never again, I pray. May we not forget the decency of a person's life or be exposed again to the loading of bodies into Marine trucks.—**Bryan and Rowena Entwistle, Canberra ACT, Australia**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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DA funds went to Iloilo solon's co-op

SYJUCO

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A COOPERATIVE IDENTIFIED WITH a legislator allied with President Macapagal-Arroyo was a recipient of the controversial liquid fertilizer fund but it has yet to submit reports on the P3.2 million it received a few days after the May 2004 elections.

Tawo Kag Duta sa Kauswagan Cooperative, formed in March 2000 by employees and supporters of Augusto Syjuco, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) director general, has not submitted a liquidation report for the fertilizers, according to the Commission on Audit.

Syjuco was congressman of Iloilo's second district when the fertilizer fund was released.

Jindra Linda Demeterio, agriculture regional executive director, said the cooperative tried to submit a report with a list of beneficiaries but she returned it because it had no endorsement of the municipal government of Alimodian.

The cooperative, which shares an address with the house of Syjuco on Rodriguez Street, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo, had a memorandum of agreement with the municipality of Alimodian, the original recipient of the fertilizer fund, to implement the program.

In a statement, Syjuco admitted that he set up the cooperative and foundation that were used as conduits in the distribution of the P5 million worth of the liquid fertilizer obtained from the DA.

Syjuco, however, said the cooperative and foundation were set up long before the fertilizer fund was received in 2004. He said the two entities were established to provide livelihood, health and education projects in the second district of Iloilo.

He said other congressmen have set up similar cooperatives or foundations for the same purpose.

He said his office has already submitted to the DA the list of farmer beneficiaries on Dec. 27, 2005 and liquidation report on Jan. 5, 2006.

"The list of beneficiaries and liquidation report would prove that there were no irregularities in the distribution of the fertilizer," Syjuco said.

The cooperative was represented by Timoteo Tomas Salvilla and former Alimodian Mayor Bernardo Ambut, records showed.

The agreement between them caused the transfer of P3.2 million from Alimodian to Syjuco's cooperative.

Among the papers submitted by the cooperative to the COA were that of the Tawo Kag Duta sa Kauswagan Foundation Inc. chaired by Syjuco.

The treasurer of the foundation is Syjuco's wife, Judy Syjuco, the current second district congressman. Some of the foundation's incorporators are the former and current mayors and vice mayors in the second congressional district of Iloilo province.

The P728-million fertilizer fund was said to have been used to ensure the victory of the President in the 2004 elections. Jose Barredo Jr., who claimed to be a sales agent of Feshan Philippines Inc., the sole distributor of Bionature liquid fertilizer, recently testified before the Senate inquiry that he persuaded congressmen, governors and mayors to avail of the DA fertilizer fund that comes with a 30-40 percent commission. He said that the fertilizer was diluted and overpriced.

Its certificate of registration said the chair of Syjuco's cooperative is Manuel Mejorada while the treasurer is Rodney Salcedo. Mejorada is now the provincial administrator of Iloilo and is a staunch critic of Syjuco.

Mejorada recently got a certification from the regional office of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) classifying Syjuco's cooperative as a "non-operating cooperative."

The towns of Guimbal, Calinog, Maasin and Lambunao, which benefited from the fertilizer fund, have submitted audited financial reports for P3.2 million of the P5 million that each town received to buy liquid fertilizers.

Guimbal town has submitted liquidation reports with audited financial reports for two releases that were intended for Feshan Philippines. Guimbal's report, obtained by COA, has a note "received and signed by Jose Barredo Jr. on June 2, 2004."

COA, in its October 2004 report, said Lambunao town violated auditing rules and regulations when it bought 764 bags of urea fertilizer worth P649,400. The purchase order has no estimated cost, the invitation to bid has no date, the bidders' tender of three suppliers has no date and the inspection and acceptance report has no date.

The town of Maasin has distributed a total of 666 bottles of liquid fertilizers that it bought from Feshan for P999,000. This means that a bottle of liquid fertilizer costs P1,500.

Maasin Mayor Mariano Malones said he only learned that it was overpriced in November. "I have no idea about liquid fertilizer when it was distributed. I thought it was imported. Later I learned that it can be bought from P150 to P350 a bottle."

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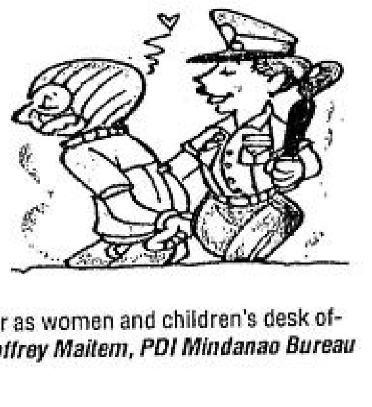
ROUNDUP

Female cops deployed



COTABATO CITY—The chief of police here ordered the deployment of female cops to crime-prone areas, saying they have the same training and orientation as their colleagues. "It has been proven so many times that female cops are much better and effective than their male counterparts," city police chief Senior Supt. Abubakar Mangelen said. He said most female policemen are assigned in offices, community relations or as women and children's desk officers.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Councilor charged

LUCENA CITY—A councilor from Atimonan, Quezon has been charged with at least 15 cases of large-scale illegal recruitment. Police said Michael Estrada, an Atimonan councilor and resident of Barangay Balubad, has several warrants of arrests from different courts. The recruits were allegedly promised high-paying jobs in the United States, Norway, China, France, Japan and London in exchange for P300,000 per job applicant. A staff member of the Atimonan council said Estrada has gone on leave from November until April this year.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Village exec dead

LUCENA CITY—A village leader died and his teenage daughter was seriously injured when the motorcycle they were riding was hit by a jeep on the Maharlika Highway on Feb. 2. Police said Isidro Magsino, 51, and barangay captain of Janagdong, Sariaya, and his daughter Menchie, 19, were in a motorcycle when a jeep, being driven by a Cesar de Luna, overtook another vehicle and collided with the motorcycle. Magsino was rushed to the nearest hospital but died there. His daughter was transferred to a hospital in Lucena for further treatment. De Luna was detained at the Sariaya municipal jail.

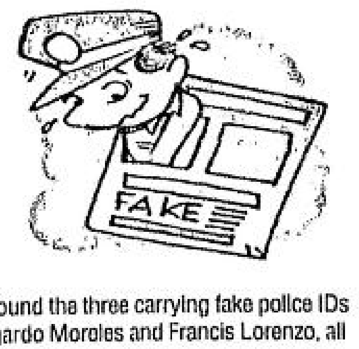
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Lumber seized

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A total of 499 board feet of Ipil lumber were intercepted by the police, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Bantay Gubat and the city's Kilos Agad Action Center (Kaac) in Barangay Bacungan here on Feb. 5. The lumber was aboard a van and about to be transported to the city at 5:30 a.m. The van driver escaped with a companion.

Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fake cops nabbed



LUCENA CITY—At least three con men posing as policemen tried to extort money from a rock crushing plant here but were arrested by lawmen. The three went to the office of First Aggregates Crushing Plants in the outskirts of Sariaya town and demanded money after introducing themselves as policemen. Sensing the visitors as con artists, the plant employees told the three to come back later. They were arrested in an entrapment operation. Police found the three carrying fake police IDs They were identified as Teofilo Surtido, Edgardo Morales and Francis Lorenzo, all residents of Candelaria, Quezon.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Gov't, MILF to work on backing for pact

By Nikko Dizon

THE GOVERNMENT AND MORO ISLAMIC Liberation Front (MILF) would launch an information campaign to win support for the terms of a peace agreement that negotiators predict would be signed in September.

Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace talks, said the campaign would start "as soon as possible."

"Together, we are going to inform stakeholders, (conduct) discussions in the information drive, and to finally have a peace agreement where we will have the understanding and support of the stakeholders who will be affected by the final peace agreement," Dureza said.

Government and MILF negotiators said they had gone past the thorny issues in the talks and were near an agreement on the toughest of the issues—ancestral domain.

Silvestre Afable, chief of the government negotiating panel, said the framework for the formal talks would be drawn at the end of March after a final agreement on the ancestral domain issue is signed.

"We agreed that at the earliest, we could have a comprehensive and final peace agreement with the MILF, hopefully by September this year," Afable said.

When asked what could be the governing entity for the MILF, Afable said: "I don't want to put labels yet but it would look like something like an enhanced autonomy or something that would fall squarely into the commitment of the President (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) to develop a federal system in our country."

Afable added that the panels are inclined to use the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 to settle the issue on ancestral domain.

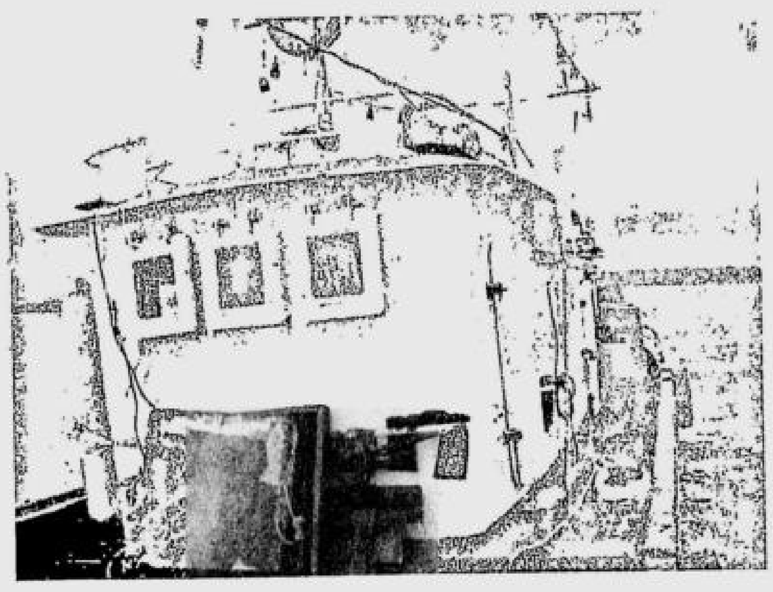
He said acts of terror and criminal elements were the only possible threats to the signing of the peace talks.

Dureza said continuing attempts to force the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo were not affecting the talks. "It is not in our radar screen."

"I am confident that the Filipino people, the people of Mindanao, will be satisfied by this agreement which will be a harbinger of national stability," said Afable.

"At face value, the agreement gives us an idea that the peace process has moved several notches higher," said Abhoud Syed Lingga, executive director of the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies in Cotobato, Mindanao.

"But what we need to see is the institutional mechanism to ensure that the benefits will go down to the Bangsamoro (Philippine Muslim) masses," he said.



THE FISHING vessel that was caught straying into protected waters in Donsol, Sorsogon, home of whale sharks locally known as *butanding*. Its apprehension was a gesture made by local officials to show how serious they are in their campaign to protect the whale sharks and the waters that are home to the gentle creatures. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Donsol mayor leads raid on illegal fishing vessel

DONSOL, SORSOGON—THIS town's mayor led the apprehension of a fishing vessel that strayed into protected waters in what she said was a gesture to show to her constituents that she was bent on the campaign against illegal fishing and was not receiving bribe from commercial fishers.

Mayor Salve Ocaya, the Philippine Navy and the Task Force Sagip Kalikasan apprehended the vessel owned by Rodolfo Apuli and operating in Donsol waters on Monday.

Senior Insp. Perfecto Rabulan identified the arrested crew men of the vessel as Rodolfo "Omping" Apuli of Legazpi City; Rodolfo Pintal, Salvador Ortile Jr., Renato Pintal, Michael Bataller, Mark Capanso, Rodel Cabier, Ramil Nape and Robelito Pintal, all from Pio Duran, Albay.

"Illegal fishing should be curtailed to protect whale sharks, locally known as *butanding*, from any form of human disturbance," Ocaya said.

She added this species, which lives in the waters of Donsol, have turned this town into a tourist destination.

A research made by Bicol University Professor Victor Soliman showed that the operation of the vessel here led to a 30 percent decline in the volume of fish as of 2004.

A case has been filed against the suspects for the use of super lights, employing fishermen without permits and other violations. *Michael Jaucian and Niño Jesus Orbeta, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Army says 10 NPA rebs killed in Quezon clashes

LUCENA CITY—AT LEAST 10 NEW People's Army rebels were killed in clashes with government forces in the Quezon Bondoc Peninsula area since Sunday, according to the top commander of the military's Southern Luzon Command based here in Camp Nakar.

Lt. General Pedro Cabuay Jr., Solcom chief, said the first encounter occurred in Barangay Burgos, Catanauan town between soldiers and communist guerrillas under the NPA's Maria Teresa de Leon Command.

He said after a brief gunfight, an undetermined number of rebels withdrew toward the hinterlands of nearby Mulanay town.

Government forces followed, backed by Air Force helicopters.

The next day, Cabuay said, soldiers again encountered the retreating guerrillas in the village of Magsaysay in Mulanay. The guerrillas were seen fleeing to San Narciso town.

On Tuesday, soldiers again caught up with the guerrillas in San Narciso.

Cabuay said he ordered more troops sent to pursue the guerrillas.

Maj. Jose Broso, Solcom spokesperson, in a report said the bodies of eight of the NPA casualties were recovered by government forces in the encounter sites. Firearms and ammunition were also found.

Broso said government forces and volunteer civilians have been searching the escape routes to look for more NPA casualties.

"From the latest report that we received, the locations of two more dead bodies were pinpointed by civilian volunteers," Broso said yesterday.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said two Army soldiers were also killed by NPA snipers in the encounters.

"The Red fighters were running away from the encounter to save the civilians from getting caught in the crossfire. The enemies have been shooting wild no matter who gets hit," Rosal said.

Broso vehemently denied Rosal's allegations.

"He was just covering up their losses," he said.

A team from the human rights group Karapatan-Quezon has been sent to conduct a fact-finding mission in the encounter sites.

Leng Jucutan, Karapatan-Quezon chair, said they received information that civilians fearful of the intensive military operation have already evacuated the area.

A text message sent by Rosal to the INQUIRER identified the killed NPA as Ariel Balcameda of Barangay Suha, Catanauan, Quezon.

The two arrested civilians were identified as Ramon Asi, married, of Sitio Inawitan, Barangay Burgos, Mulanay, Quezon and Frederick Adan of Barangay Villa Aurin, San Narciso, Quezon.

Asi was arrested on Feb. 6, while Adan was arrested on Feb. 8. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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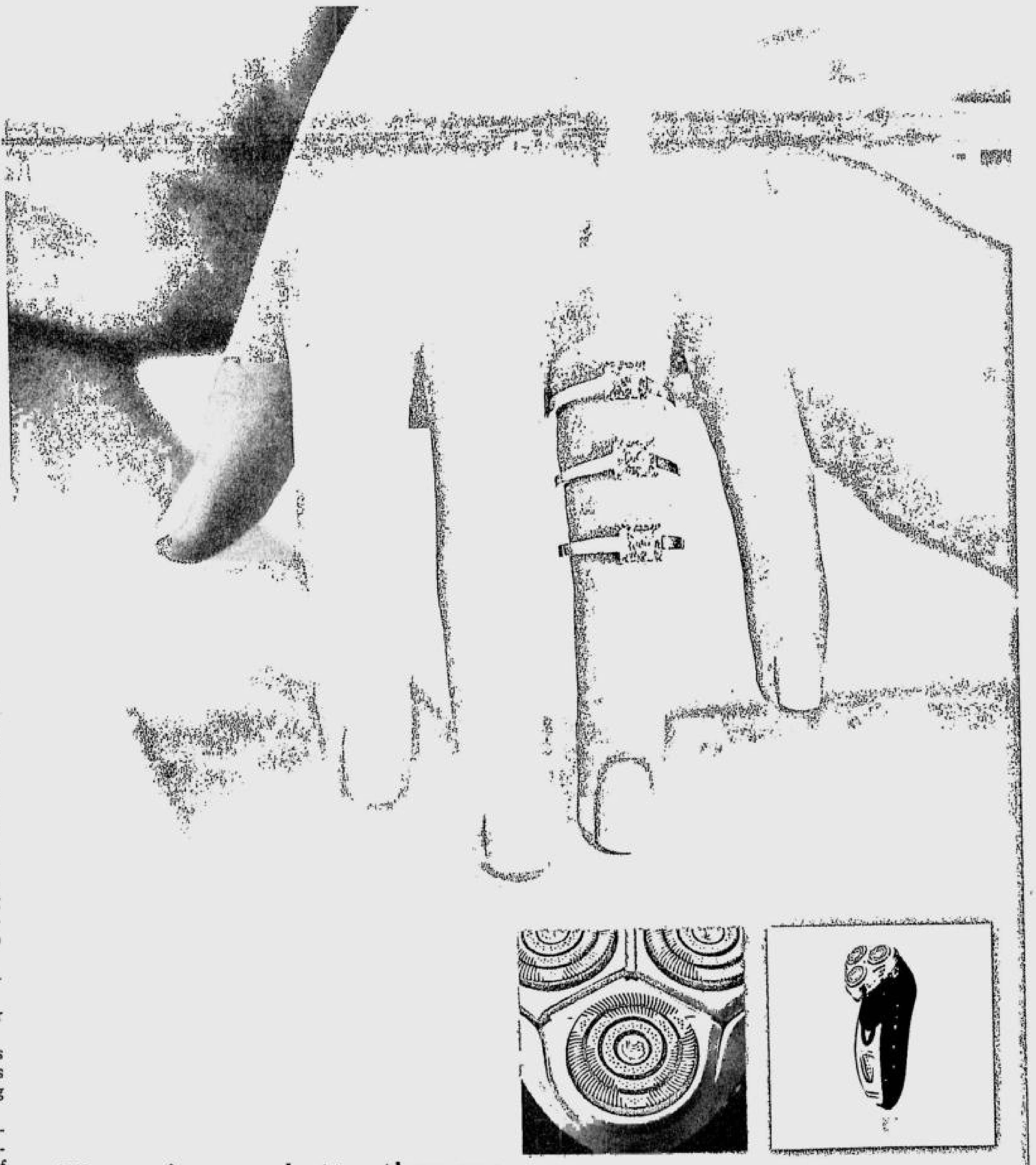

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Aetas oppose entry of Korean resort

PORAC, PAMPANGA—SOME 30 AETA ELDERS and leaders on Tuesday apologized to Gov. Mark Lapid whom tribal folk barred from entering their village on Sunday but they refused a plan by a Korean-owned travel company to develop a hot spring resort there.

Danilo Tecson, tribal chieftain of Aetas in Porac, Angeles and Mabalacat, apologized during a dialogue with local officials on the business proposal by Pull Travel Inc.

"We're sorry if our tribe members reacted that way. That was because they felt offended because they were not consulted about the resort plan," Tecson said.

The Aetas of Barangay Inararo, east of Mt. Pinatubo, set up road blockades to stop nonresidents from entering the village hosting the hot spring.

Lapid, who was on a mountaineering expedition that day, gained entry only after he called Mayor Exequiel Gamboa thrice through his mobile phone.

In the dialogue, Gamboa fumed over the incident, saying the barring was a sign of disrespect for the governor, who hailed from the area and who was not involved in the dispute.

After the apologies were given, Tecson and Inararo Barangay captain Mary Bulatao retorted by saying that the absence of consultations with the Aetas was no less a disrespect for their right to have a say on projects in their *lutan tua* (ancestral land).

Although the representatives of the project's proponent explained their plan in the area, the elders and leaders rejected it.

They demanded a detailed contract specifying the terms for use of the site, environmental management and the benefits the Aetas would get like jobs and community projects. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

REMEMBERING RIZAL
President Macapagal-Arroyo chats by the bay with fishermen George Acopiado (center), a great-grandson of Filomeno Acopiado who was a former student of Dr. Jose Rizal, and Romy Tagapan after inspecting the Dr. Jose Rizal landing site that will be improved with the use of national and local government funds.

Comelec order fuels tension in Tanauan City

TANAUAN CITY—TENSION GRIPPED THIS CITY as hundreds of supporters of embattled Mayor Alfredo Corona yesterday trooped to the city hall grounds a day after the Commission on Elections (Comelec) issued a resolution installing Sonia Torres-Aquino as the city's duly-elected mayor.

Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, Calabarzon police director, sent 100 policemen to maintain peace and order as angry supporters of Corona held a program at the city hall lobby.

Police set up checkpoints.

Corona's supporters hanged streamers condemning the election body's supposed maneuvering to favor the "moneyed and influential" Torres-Aquino.

The INQUIRER tried to contact lawyer George Erwin Garcia, Torres-Aquino's counsel, but he did not answer calls and text messages on his mobile phone.

Led by the Kalipunan ng mga Tanaueño Para sa Tunay na Tinig ng Tao, the protesters inflated the tires of a dump truck to block the entrance to the city hall.

Medel Manalo, Corona's executive assistant, said Corona's supporters went to the city hall late Wednesday as soon as news spread about the implementation of the Comelec order which directed the incumbent mayor to relinquish his position to his political rival.

"The people of Tanauan will never let anybody steal their votes and bury the truth," Manalo said.

In a ruling Feb. 7, the Comelec said since they failed to come up with a majority decision favoring Corona's motion to overturn the Dec. 22, 2005 resolution of its Second Division, the commission has decided to uphold the division's writ of execution installing Torres-Aquino as mayor.

The case stemmed from the complaint filed by Torres-Aquino accusing Corona of massive cheating which Corona denied.

The order, signed by Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, was issued after the poll body held an executive session.

Lawyer Ronaldo Ilas, the provincial election officer, served the order on Wednesday. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Kin of OFWs stranded in Riyadh seek help

BAGUIO CITY—THE PARENTS OF 15 OVERseas Filipino workers in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, are asking the government to repatriate their daughters who are protesting their employers' alleged human rights abuses and breach of their job contracts.

The workers, who came from Baguio, Benguet and La Union, started the protest in the first week of January this year. They have remained locked up at the rooftop of a building in Riyadh.

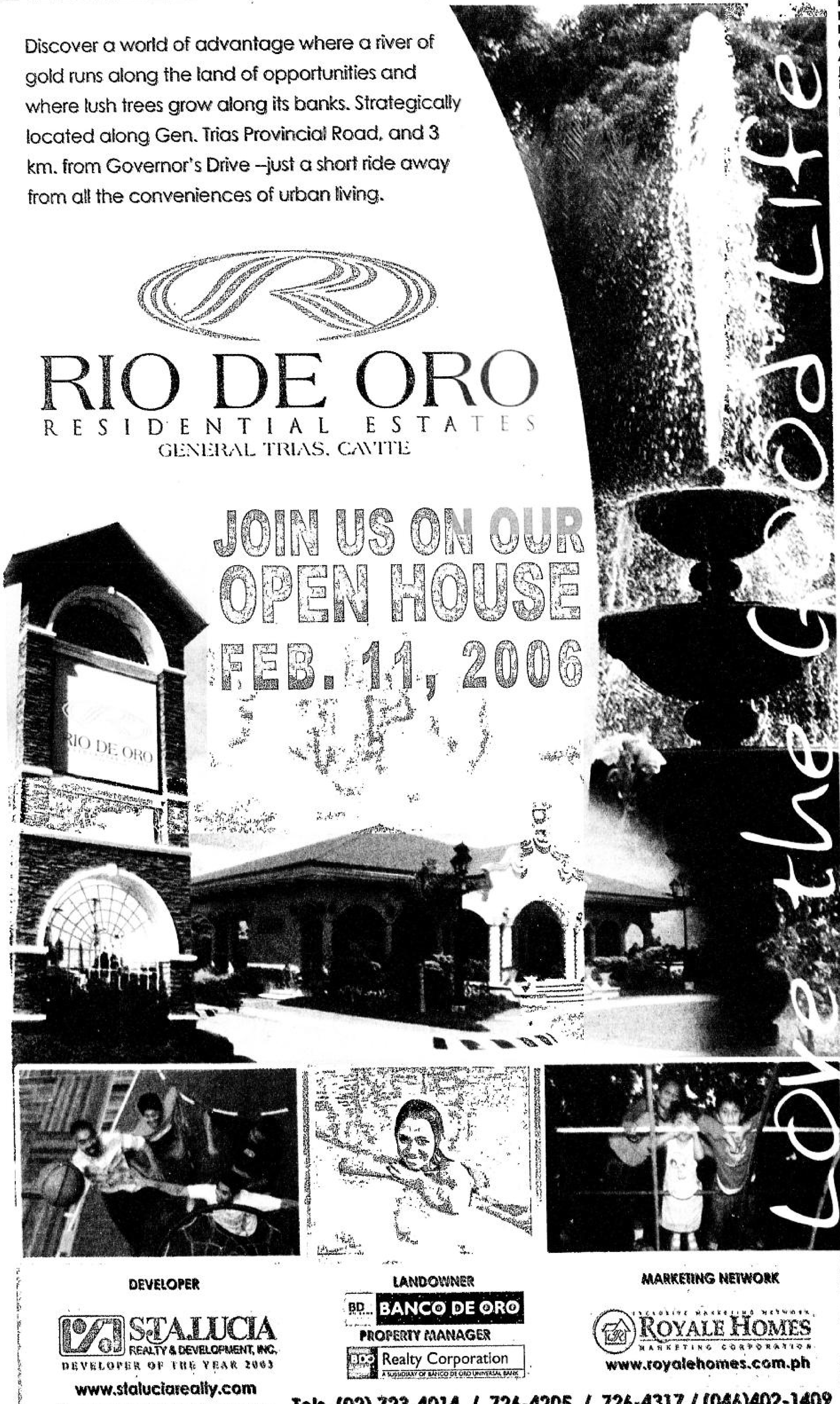
They are suffering from hunger, thirst and sickness for almost a month, Flora Belinan, spokesperson of Migrante-Cordillera, told a forum here.

Lydia Balawen, mother of one of the workers, said she received a letter from her daughter who complained about their condition at the rooftop of a building, which serves as the living quarters of the employees.

"My daughter said they are now running out of food because even the food donated by other OFWs is being blocked. The water that they are drinking is not potable and it is very dirty. I and the other parents are always crying and having sleepless nights because we are thinking about their condition. They are all going to die there," said Balawen.

The 15 workers accused their employer, the Annasban Group, of violating their job contracts. They applied as janitors at a mental hospital in Riyadh and were hired through two Manila-based recruitment agencies.

Belinan said the workers' complaints included illegal pay deduction, non-payment of overtime pay and lack of food. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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Senate threatens to cite Cabinet men for contempt

From page A1

be approved "between the end of March and the middle of April."

At present, the budget measure has yet to be sponsored on the floor by Rep. Rolando Andaya, House appropriations committee chair. He said he intended to do this on Monday.

Since last year, the Senate has been conducting parallel budget hearings, convening itself into a committee of the whole.

Investigation, not deliberation

Defensor said the new Palace directive was "logical" because the "power of the purse lies within the House."

"The role of the Senate is to concur with the House approval of the budget," he said.

Defensor said executive officials shared "underlying concerns" that the Senate budget deliberations were a forum for destructive politics.

He cited the incident at the Senate hearing on the budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform. Senators asked Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman if he had helped hide former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

"It's more of an investigation than a deliberation on the budget," he said.

The opposition claims that wiretapped conversations between Garcillano and Ms Arroyo showed that the President had rigged the 2004 presidential election.

At a briefing, Gordon said the President's decision to bar her officials from attending the Senate budget hearings could be interpreted as trying to hide something from the people.

SC urged to rule on EO legality

"(T)hat's why I would advise her not to hide things from the people by not letting the Cabinet go [to hearings]," he said.

Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Edgardo Angara pressed the Supreme Court to resolve the case questioning the EO's legality, while other senators pushed for a dialogue between Ms Arroyo and Senate leaders to break the impasse.

Santiago, a UP law professor and former regional trial court judge, agreed with Gordon about the need to cite for contempt officials who snub the Senate, but voiced some reservations about it.

"Well, we can always declare them in contempt and order them sent to jail, but as we said before that will become another casus belli. It will be another ground for waging even a more terminal war," she said at the same briefing.

Smarting from the snub by Bunye and top DILG officials, senators held an emergency caucus Wednesday night.

At the caucus, proposals to cite for contempt officials who would snub hearings and pass a resolution condemning the action of Bunye and the DILG officials were put on the floor, among other things, but no one would say if a consensus was reached.

Unconstitutional

Both Santiago and Gordon agreed that the EO was unconstitutional and a breach of inter-departmental courtesy.

"No other democracy has done this, that is why we have no precedent to follow," she said.

Gordon said the others wanted to express their umbrage. "But I said, let's call it what it is. This is a violation of the Constitution."

Santiago, however, said that the "best course of action" for the Senate would be to move the Supreme Court to rule on a petition seeking to nullify the EO "as fast as possible."

Angara went as far as to propose that Senate lawyers move to speed up the resolution of the case before the high tribunal.

"This is tying up the Senate's hands from performing its function to gather facts on which to base policies. And I ask the Supreme Court to have it expedited for the sake of the country," he said in a phone interview.

"Let's [allow] the third branch, the final arbiter of disputes, to settle it once and for all," he said.

Letting the high court decide on the touchy issue to avert further confrontation between Malacañang and Senate, according to Santiago.

Dialogue

The other senators were not closing the door to a dialogue between Malacañang officials and Senate leaders to break the impasse.

"We should act responsibly... both sides. We owe it to the people. Can't we thresh this out by talking?" administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said in an interview over dzBB.

Defensor said he believed that both Malacañang and the Senate should "set parameters" so as to "avoid miscommunication."

"I'm one of many people who wish [that] the Senate and the executive would institutionally work out their relationship because this would be better for all," he said.

Conspiracy theory

Speaker Jose de Venecia assured senators that the proposed 2006 national budget would be passed by the chamber before the end of the month.

De Venecia dismissed the "conspiracy theory" aired by senators that the administration wanted a reenacted budget.

The Speaker declared in December last year that the 2005 national budget would be reenacted for 45 days only. He expected the House, and later the Senate, to pass the General Appropriations Act of 2006 in March.

Once this year's budget is enacted, all the increases in budgetary allocations will be retroactive to Jan. 1, according to De Venecia.

S&P upbeat on RP debt but Moody's pessimistic

From page A1

& Poor's, Moodys, as well as Fitch Ratings, cut their outlooks to negative from stable last year over concerns about delays in the implementation of the VAT law as calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation intensified amid allegations of fraud in the 2004 presidential election.

Standard & Poor's seems satisfied with the Arroyo administration's moves to raise taxes and boost the government's ability to pay off its debts.

"The stable outlook reflects revised expectations concerning the prospects of policy continuity and adherence to fiscal consolidation, which foreshadows improved chances for overall deficit reduction and stabilization of the country's debt dynamics," said Standard & Poor's credit analyst Agost Benard.

Analysts surprised

But Moody's said the Arroyo administration must make more progress in raising revenues and bringing down "exceptionally high" public debt amid political uncertainties.

Moody's decision surprised some analysts. Markets had earlier priced in an outlook upgrade by international ratings agencies after the Arroyo administration raised the VAT rate his month.

Other analysts, however, shared Moody's view that the Philippines had to prove its fiscal reforms would generate sustainable results.

"We have to look at the numbers again in three to six months," said Song Seng Wun, regional economist at CIMB-G.K. Securities in Singapore. "One or two sparrows does not necessarily indicate the arrival of spring."

A team from Moody's, which has rated Philippine debt four notches below investment grade, conducted a ratings review in December last year.

"Moody's believes that the Philippines will need to make more progress in fiscal consolidation before downward pressure is removed on its B1 ratings," the ratings agency said in a summary of its report.

"The achievement of expanded value-added tax revenue targets for 2006, the overall outturn of the 2006 budget, the reasonable assurance that current policies will be maintained into the future will be important considerations for Moody's to change the rating outlook back to stable from negative," it added.

Highly vulnerable

Moody's said the high level of public debt as well as weak export earnings would leave the government's finances highly vulnerable to domestic or external shocks.

The ratings agency also said unresolved political issues—such as the ongoing debate over Charter change and next year's congressional elections—could distract the government from pursuing fiscal reforms.

While ruling out extra-constitutional means in resolving questions on the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency, Moody's said "the range of possible political outcomes has enough unpredictability as to cause concern."

But Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a statement that while the Arroyo administration recognized the need for sustained reforms, it felt Moody's "should have put greater emphasis on its achievements in support of fiscal sustainability and deficit reduction."

Teves said the implementation of a higher VAT rate on Feb. 1 "was the final stage of a package of fiscal reforms, which during 2005 delivered a 14-percent increase in revenue and the lowest fiscal deficit in four years."

"Going forward, we expect our fiscal reform initiatives to deliver 23.7-percent growth in programmed revenues and help reduce the deficit to around 2.1 percent of GDP (gross domestic product) in 2006," he added.

John Teng, head of Asian credit research at Nomura International in Hong Kong, said an outlook upgrade was only a matter of time.

"At this stage, it's quite irrelevant whether the rating agencies have negative outlooks or not," he said. "It's quite clear that things have stabilized and are looking better."

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said investors were aware of the positive developments on fiscal reforms "as evidenced by the surging foreign investment flows, rising equities market, narrowing bond spreads and the strengthening of the peso."

Fitch report

Fitch Ratings, which finished its most recent review of the Philippines in January, is expected to release its report within weeks.

The Philippines, Asia's largest issuer of sovereign bonds after Japan, had a below-target budget deficit in 2005 of P146.5 billion ($2.83 billion), or around 2.8 percent of gross domestic product.

The Arroyo administration—which hopes to balance the national budget by 2008—expects to easily meet this year's target deficit of P125 billion, or 2.1 percent of GDP, with better tax collection and extra revenues of about P75 billion from the VAT reform.

"We think there is a good possibility that Fitch will downgrade to BB-minus," said Scott Wilson, sovereign credit analyst at UBS in Singapore. "The balanced budget plans rest on some very rosy revenue assumptions which are unlikely to be met." *With a report from Reuters*

PDI cartoonist . . .

From page A1

The top winners of the 2005 Lurie Awards were Gerald Mayer Hofer of Austria, David Pope of Australia and Osamni Simanca of Brazil, who were awarded the first, second and third prizes, respectively.

Daroy was one of 10 artists on the honorable-mention list.

The Ranan Lurie Awards, launched in 1999 and first held in 2000, are named after the Israeli artist, journalist, novelist, inventor and Mensa member whom the Guinness Book of World Records cited as "the most widely syndicated political cartoonist in the world" since 1980.

Lurie's work has been featured in Life, Newsweek, Time, US News and World Report, Die Welt of Germany, The Times of London, Asahi Shimbun of Japan and Neue Zurcher Zeitung of Switzerland.

His daily animated cartoons were featured on the MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour, ABC's Nightline and Early Morning News, and Germany's ZDF television network.

The cartoons were created using a new animation system Lurie invented himself.

Daroy, 47, joined the Inquirer in December 2002. He draws the editorial cartoons for its Wednesday and Friday issues.

He graduated from De La Salle University with degrees in communication arts and philosophy.

Last year, Daroy won a Catholic Mass Media Award for Best Editorial Cartoon and tied for the top prize in the "Sining Guhit" editorial cartoon and comic strip contest held by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. *Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research*

Gore: Earth our only home, now at risk, let's save it

From page A1

lecture on global warming complete with graphs, slides, video clips and satellite photos obtained from the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (Nasa) showing the extent of the environmental damage around the world.

In particular, Gore illustrated how the increase in carbon dioxide levels around the world was leading to higher temperatures worldwide, causing glaciers and the polar ice cap to melt.

He showed computer simulations of how major coastal cities around the world would be flooded by an average 5-meter rise in the sea level caused by melting polar ice.

"Two million people in Manila will have to be relocated," he said, as the simulation showed the northern and other low-lying areas of the metropolis being flooded as Manila Bay rushed inland.

Gore's insights on issues such as global warming, the depletion of the ozone layer and the destruction of rainforests is said to have played a major role in policy-making for the Clinton government. In recent years, he strongly pushed for the passage of the Kyoto Treaty, an agreement among the world's major superpowers to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

During Gore's tenure as vice president, he was already a strong proponent for environmental protection. While a senator, he traveled around the world on numerous fact-finding missions to work on his book, "Earth in Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit," which explains the necessity for environmentalism and calls for a global marshal paln to rescue the planet from environmental disasters.

Gore also pointed out the threat to the environment brought about by the population explosion, especially in the developing world which includes countries like the Philippines.

"We have to accept the moral reality," he said. "I know population is an issue here and I don't want to meddle but the biggest increases are happening in poor countries."

The population explosion is also causing the exploitation of valuable rainforests which, in turn, aggravates environmental degradation.

"I said I wouldn't meddle, but you're losing 2 percent of your forests each year," he said. "They're more valuable to you for ecological purposes than for wood."

And mining, too

"But that's for you to decide," he said. Gore also noted that the mining of minerals could also destroy the environment.

"I hate to meddle, but the costs have to be calculated," he said, stressing that political will is the key toward implementing reforms on the environmental front.

"Fortunately, in democracies, political will is a renewable resource," he said, drawing laughter from the audience.

Standing ovation

Gore's impassioned presentation was received with deafening applause and a standing ovation from the audience.

"I wish all our politicians were like him," former Education Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad said when interviewed after the presentation. "Then this would be a much, much better country."

Former Prime Minister Cesar E.A. Virata said the government and the country already recognized the problems highlighted in Gore's presentation, but pointed out that much remained to be done.

Slap in the face

"We have so many laws already in place like the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act," he said. "It's always a question of implementation."

Sen. Richard Gordon, for his part, called Gore's presentation a "good slap in the face."

"It's a very rude wake-up call for us," he said. "We have to move fast, especially on the population issue."

Gore and his party arrived shortly before 2 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport aboard a Japan Airlines flight and were met by the Presidential Security Group, which had earlier requested airport authorities for special assistance for the visitor.

Gore will fly to India today to repeat his gospel on the environment.

"The earth is our only home," he said "It's now at risk. Let's save it."

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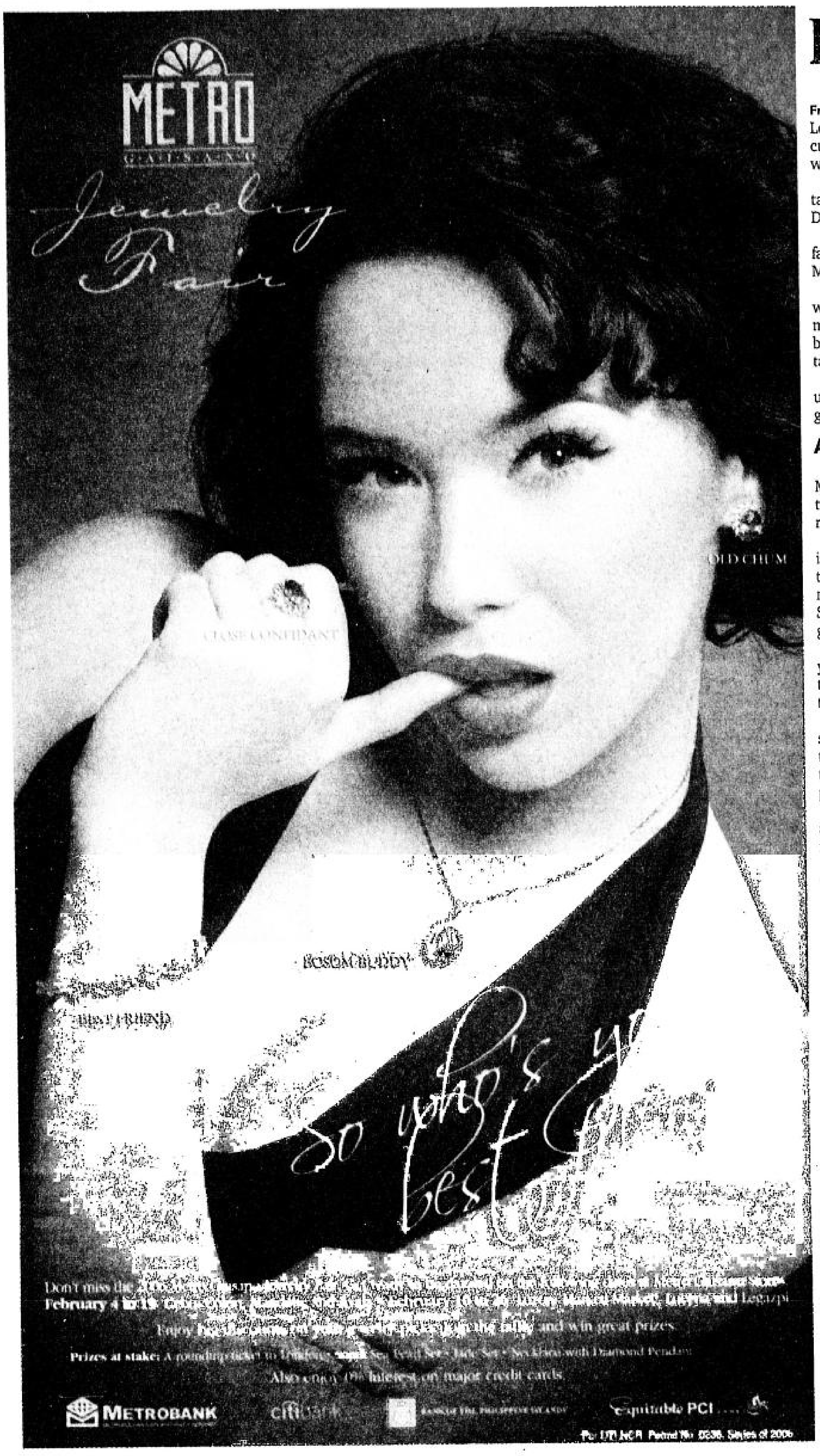
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Lawmakers defer …

From page A1

Lofva for the United States to "resolve" the custody issue, considering that it's the DFA which directly deals with the US Embassy.

"It's within their purview and we will certainly be guided by the statements of Senator Defensor," he said.

Santiago said that the US Embassy invited Lovfa members three weeks ago to visit the American Marines and meet with embassy officials.

"The meeting was very amicable. There was a meeting of minds on the custody that it might be with the US embassy at the moment but they're willing to negotiate it with Secretary Romulo," she said.

"The Americans are now willing to continue with the negotiations while the trial is ongoing," Santiago added.

Accused can go to Okinawa

Jones also promised that the four accused Marines will not be allowed to leave the country "until after final judgment in the case of rape which is now pending trial."

"Under the VFA, the only obligation of the US is to produce the accused when demanded by the court. So, technically they can go to Okinawa and just come whenever the judge in Subic requires their physical presence," Santiago said. The servicemen are based in Okinawa.

"But the US Embassy has explicitly gone beyond that and has given us the commitment that the four Marines will remain in Philippine territory until after final judgment," she said.

Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, Lovfa cochair, also said that the US Embassy also promised that the American servicemen would appear before the Olongapo court when the case against them proceeds and they are arraigned.

"We are glad that the Americans said that if and when the accused servicemen are arraigned in Olongapo, they will be present," Cuenco said.

Santiago said that a renegotiation of the entire VFA might occur before the end of the year.

"Since the VFA requires that the trial shall be finished in one year's time, before the end of 2006, Secretary Romulo or his representative will already sit down (with US representatives) to renegotiate the entire VFA," she said.

Besides Santiago and Cuenco, the other Lovfa members who visited the US Embassy at 10 a.m. were Sen. Richard Gordon and Representatives Rozzano Rufino Biazon (Muntinlupa) and Joseph Emilio Abaya (Cavite).

Santiago said that the accused—Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier, 27; Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, 20; Dominic Duplantis, 21, and Keith Silkwood, 23—were allowed to leave the Jusmag building inside the embassy compound only for exercises.

Mental anguish

"While they may not be undergoing physical punishment because they're presumed innocent, they have mental torture. I see, as a former trial judge, that they are under mental anguish," Santiago said.

"They all looked pale," she added.

Santiago said that the lawmakers somehow felt sorry for the accused because of their youth. She added that Carpentier had two children—aged 1 and 7.

"Its easy to talk about theories and the law but, once you give a face [to the accused] like what happened [yesterday morning], the senators and congressmen had second thoughts. If they are condemned [after trial], their lives would be ruined," Santiago said.

"They were really afraid. When I shook hands with one of the youngest, his hand was as cold as ice. The expression on their faces was like they were begging for mercy," she said.

"That's why you would feel sorry if you're a mother like me. You'd think of their future, since they are also like my children, if they're imprisoned in our jails … you know sometimes that could be dangerous," Santiago said. *With a report from Volt Contreras*

Court allows shoe lady …

From page A1

Northern Marianas Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in Manila last Monday at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City. A Saipan newspaper Pacific Times posted on its website a photo of the 60-year-old governor looking at Ms Marcos, 76.

Yesterday, the former first lady was herself allowed by the court to travel to Hong Kong later this month to seek alternative medicine treatment for her ailing knees and a cough.

Ms Marcos faces a string of civil and criminal charges relating to her husband's $683 million Swiss bank deposits, and needs court permission to travel abroad.

Judge Silvino Panfilo of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26 said that after careful consideration, the court granted Marcos' motion based on her constitutional right and on humanitarian grounds.

The court said Marcos has until Feb. 21 to fly to Hong Kong after posting a travel bond of P320,000.

Government prosecutors did not oppose Marcos' motion, court clerk Norma Ferreras said.

A similar motion filed by Marcos' lawyer last year was rejected on the grounds that she had failed to respect previous dates set by the court for her return to the Philippines. It wasn't clear why the court changed its mind, but Marcos' lawyer Robert Sison said the latest motion was different.

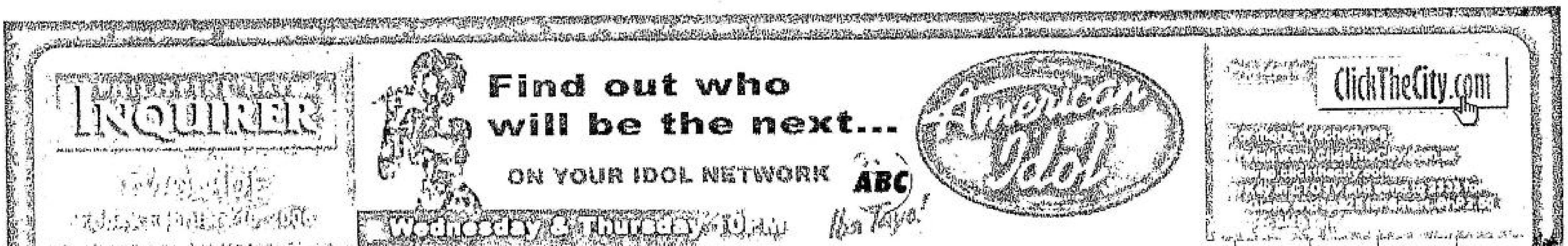
Marcos then had wanted to travel to Shanghai to consult an alternative medicine practitioner, but this time she mentioned only Hong Kong.

Well-deserved title

Marcos, widow of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, earned the title of "Queen of Shoes" when thousands of her signature shoes were discovered at Malacañang Palace during the 1986 revolution.

In 2001, Ms Marcos opened a shoe museum in Marikina City, the footwear capital of the Philippines, where most of the shoes from her Palace days are now on display.

Fitial wants the Hong Kong-based Yue Yuen, also known as YY, to consider setting up a factory on Saipan. YY is the world's leading supplier of branded wholesale athletic and casual wear. *With a report from AP*



Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		PBA				Senro	PBA					Big News	So You Think You Can Dance		Real Stories	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Gulong Ng Palad	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Only You	Vietnam Rose	Forbidden Love	Kung Fu Fight Nights			Insider
AXN		Nuremberg				Worst Case Scenario		Lost		24		Gamemax	E Buzz	Trapped				Double Team	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Energy Bomb	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinema One		Magic To Win 5				Maruja				Spirit Warriors 2: The Shortcut		Ang Kingpin ng Maynila				Sanib			
Cinemax		The Incredible Mr. Limpet			Another You (4:45 PM)				Edge Of Madness			Hulk				Sleepers (10:15PM)			
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Discovery Channel		Extreme Engineering		Why Intelligence Fails		Beyond Tomorrow		More Than Human		Rides		American Chopper		Beyond Tomorrow		Mostly True Stories		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-lakative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro Billiards '04 Int'l Challenge of Champs USA		Table Tennis 2003 Killerspin Extreme	High School Basketball '05 Mc Donald's Jam Fest		Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	World Snooker Tour Embassy World Champs				Sportscenter Asia		Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	2005 WPBA Cuetec Cues Nat'l 9-BALL Championship		Sportscenter Asia	Table Tennis 2003 Killerspin Extreme	Sportscenter Asia
ETC		For Love Or Money 3		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia		American Dreams 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	The Word Was Made Flesh	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Suffering And The Love Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Stations Of The Cross	EWTN Gallery	Super Saints	Life on The Rock Encore		Marriage Works In Christ	Defending Life	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	Father Corapi And Catechism Of The Catholic Church	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royale Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	Le Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Sugo	Etheria	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace		Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Judging Amy		Jane Doe: Now You See It Now You Don't			Who's The Boss? II	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy			Midsomer Murders: Dead Man's Eleven		Doc Martin (10:35PM)		Strong Medicine (11:25PM)
HBO			The Perfect Husband: The Laci Peterson Story			Barfly			Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban					Sinbad: Legend Of The Seven Seas			Black Rain		
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Manny Pacquiao Sports Idol		TBA						Japan Video Topics	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Primetime Glick	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac W Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	5 Things About Mew	MTV Hits		Trippin	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Get Hitch'd	Get Spotted	Dyes		The Life & Rhymes of 50 Cent	Trippin	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic	Wild Family Secrets	Explorations Powered By Duracell	Rough Trades	Amazing Moments		Battle Of The Arctic Giants		Top 6 - Mysterious Universe		Wow!		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Explorations Powered By Duracell	Rough Trades	Amazing Moments	
NBN		Value Vision		Value Vision		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Kamao		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Walang Kapalit				[illegible]				Lagi Kitang Mamahalin				Fight Night 4				Sugal Sa Puri
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Striker Hungry Heart	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Hotelier	All In	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		MNT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Krusada Kontra Krimen		As Told By Ginger	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Cold Case		Medium		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherd's Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports		Badminton: The Yonex All England Open '06 SF						[illegible] Cup (Rd 2) Gaudio vs Davydenko		Sagupaan	NBA Inside Stuff	NBA Game Heat vs Mavericks					Sportsdesk	Denmark Open Men's Doubles Finals	
Sports Plus				World Game		ACC Basketball: Boston College @ Georgia Tech				Celebrity Poker Tournament 3				BD Catalina	Xtatic Xtreme	Inside the PGA	Golf Today	AT&T Pebble Beach Nat'l Pro-Am Day 1	
Star Movies				Sonic Impact (3:55 PM)			Jawbreaker			My Cousin Vinny				The Quick And The Dead				Enemy Of The State (10:50PM)	
Star World	8 Simple Rules	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		The Simpsons/American Idol 2006	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends (Series 10)	TNA Wrestling/American Idol 2006		The Collector		NYPD Blue		Friends (Series 10)	Walker Texas Ranger/American Idol 2006
Studio 23		Rave						The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup		Survivor Guatemala		Barkada Nights		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

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Who really owns recovered cash?

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE POLICE HAVE YET TO DETERMINE who between the kin of two women who died in Saturday's stampede at the PhilSports Arena is the rightful owner of P49,000 in cash found by a rescue volunteer.

Yesterday, the children of stampede victims Aurora Soriano, 56, and Virginia Javierto, 81, brought the clothes their mothers were wearing on the day they were killed, hoping these would resolve the matter.

Pasig City Rescue Team volunteer Candy Lacno, 24, found the money while going through the victims' belongings to look for identification cards on Saturday morning.

The 49 P1,000 bills were in a white envelope found inside the pocket of an elderly woman who was holding a sky blue bag Lacno recalled. Inside the bag, she said, were identification cards which later led her and the police to the children of Soriano.

Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio personally witnessed the turning over of the money on Monday. The following day, the children of Javierto, who was killed in the stampede with her daughter Josephine, went to Eusebio's office. They claimed the money was their mother's, who went straight to the PhilSports Arena to see Wowowee, a noontime show on ABS-CBN, after withdrawing P50,000 from a bank.

Javierto's daughter, Estrellita, who was with her mother and sister during the stampede, but managed to survive, went to the Eastern Police District Annex Office yesterday afternoon. Bent on proving their family's claim, she brought her mother's maroon blouse, brown skirt and green pants.

"The money belongs to my mother. It is impossible that two women in the crowd were carrying P49,000 at the same time," Estrellita told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

But after looking at the clothes, Lacno said the woman from whom she had gotten the money was wearing a different set of clothes.

"The woman was wearing a blouse with floral patterns and dark blue jogging pants," Lacno said, almost in tears as Javierto's children violently reacted at her statements.

But three hours later, Soriano's son, Lovinsky, also showed up at the station, bringing with him the clothes his mother wore: a light brown shirt and blue maong pants.

He said his mother had been borrowing money from a cooperative and Indian traders to put up a vegetable stand. His mother was on her way to buy vegetables at the Balintawak Market in Quezon City but her friends convinced her to go with them to watch the show, he added.

Lovinsky said they would cooperate in any investigation. He added that he was also willing to return the money, which he said is still intact, "but only if there would be enough proof that it belongs to someone else."

FAMILY TRAGEDY

3 stabbed dead in home

By DJ Yap

TRAGEDY STRUCK MEMBERS OF A family in Quezon City yesterday when three females of the household—a mother, her 7-month-old daughter, and a grandmother—were killed by a still unidentified assailant.

Jonah Borja, 32, was found dead inside their house at Block 213, Lot 21 Yuan St., Phase 8, North Fairview, Quezon City, her body apparently serving as shield for her daughter Julianna. Borja's mother, Narcisa Elpidez, 65, was also discovered dead on the second floor of the two-story house. All three sustained stab wounds. But Elpidez, who was found hanging by a grilled window with a telephone cord looped around her neck, was also apparently strangled, police said.

According to Jonah's husband, Nelson, she left their house at 8 a.m. with Juliana to visit her mother who lived one block away from their home. At 11:30 a.m., Nelson said he received a call from a relative telling him that something had happened to his family. Police believe the crime occurred between 8:30-11 a.m..

Quezon City police said they have not yet established a motive for the crime.

Apart from Nelson, Elpidez's boarder, a 23-year-old man, have been asked by the police to shed light on the incident.

Tumana Bridge reopens in March

By Jerome Aning

GOOD NEWS FOR COMMUTERS looking for a faster alternate route between Quezon City, Marikina City, San Mateo, Rizal and the northeastern areas of the province, and vice versa.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) yesterday announced it was speeding up the construction of the Tumana Bridge to pave the way for its opening next month. DPWH National Capital Region Director Josefino Rigor said Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. had personally ordered him to finish work on the project before the start of the rainy season.

With the completion of the bridge, motorists going to Quezon City from Marikina and vice versa would no longer have to take the longer route through the Marcos Highway or Katipunan Avenue.

It will also make crossing the Marikina River safer because motorists would no longer have to pass through the Tumana spillway. The spillway had been the site of accidents in the past because it is often submerged in floodwaters during heavy rains.

METROBRIEFS

Businessman shot dead

A BUSINESSMAN was shot dead by five unidentified men who barged into his house in Muntinlupa City Wednesday night, police said. Tito Patdu, 58, a barrel dealer and resident of Lakeview Homes, Barangay Putatan, died of several gunshot wounds at the Muntinlupa City Medical Center. His son, Joey, was also treated at the hospital for a gunshot wound after the suspects fired upon him when he came to his father's rescue. A tricycle driver told the police that five men flagged him down in front of the victim's house and ordered him at gunpoint to bring them to Tibagan Street, near Country Homes, also in the same barangay. When they reached the area, the suspects alighted from his vehicle and fled on foot. The police have yet to establish the motive in the killing but said it could be business-related. ***Jocelyn R. Uy***

More raps vs trader

ADDITIONAL charges may be filed against the businesswoman who was caught with prohibited drugs at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) after she allegedly tried to bribe Bureau of Customs (BOC) inspectors. When the suspect, Luz Anastacio, presented her folded Customs declaration form, the examiners noticed that there was five hundred baht attached to it, according to Mimel Tuazon, chief of the Customs arrival operations division. "That's another offense," Tuason said in an interview. Anastacio was apprehended at the Naia on Wednesday after authorities found inside her bag 16 kilos of suspected Ecstasy and Bangkok pills. The BOC was set to file charges of illegal importation against her yesterday after the tablets found in her bag were tested and found to be a precursor for prohibited drugs, according to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. ***Nikko Dizon***

Driver killed inside van

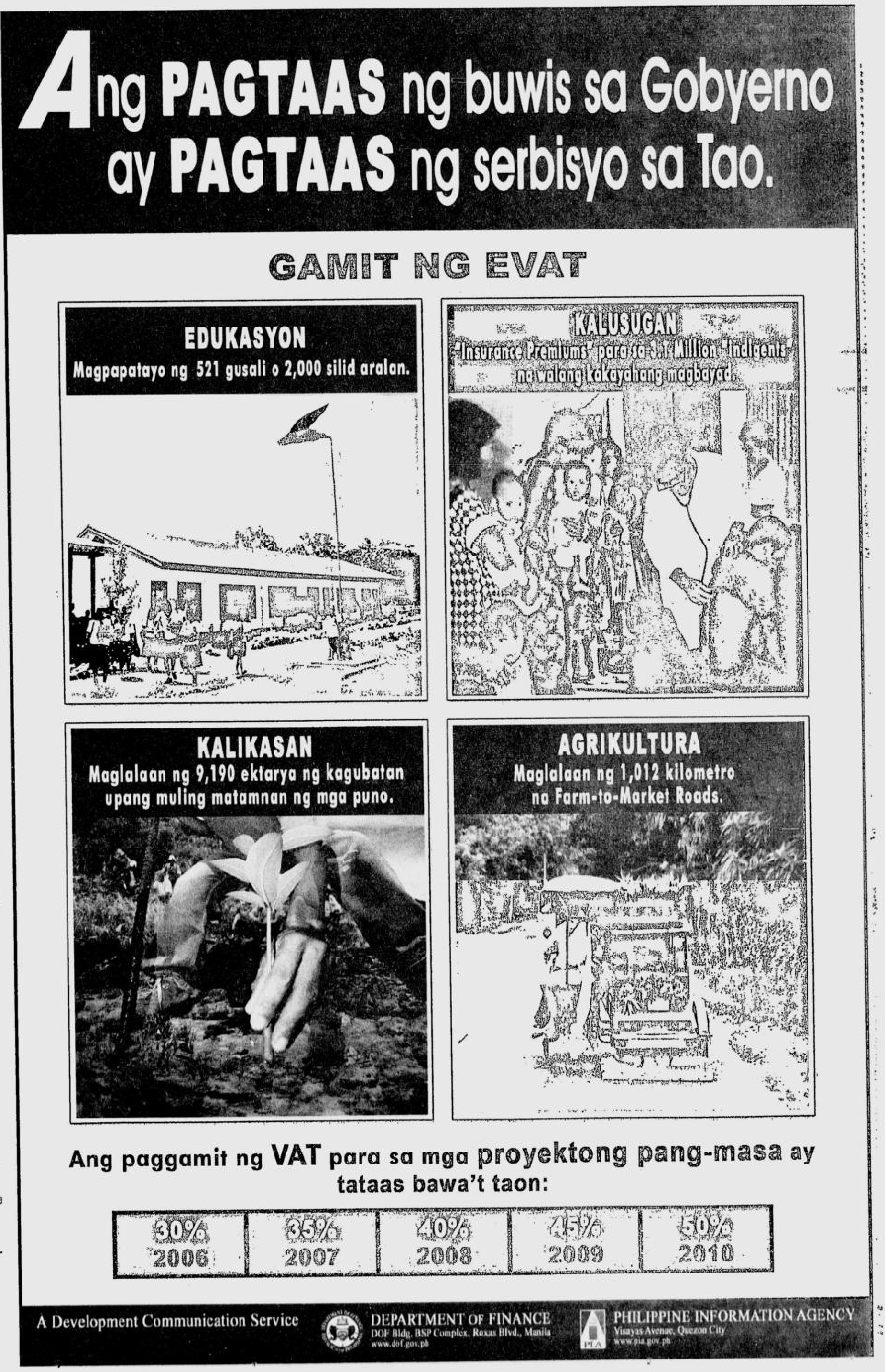
A DRIVER was killed inside a van when a crane tipped over and its boom fell on the vehicle yesterday. The accident happened at the parking lot of the Rockwell Commercial Center in Makati City. The fatality, identified as Cecilio Casuncad, 38, died behind the wheel of the Ford Explorer (WPN 242). Senior Insp. Rey Garduque, chief of the Makati Police Department's Police Community Precinct 9, said the van was wrecked while a Mercedes Benz parked nearby was slightly damaged. Barangay officials, citing sketchy reports, said that Jaime Senisen, a forklift operator, was maneuvering the crane when the incident occurred. Meanwhile, a painter was killed after he accidentally fell off a high rise building at the Ortigas Business District the other morning. Police said the victim was Alberto Calicia of Parañaque City. He was brought to The Medical City where he died while undergoing treatment, Pasig City Police investigation chief Supt. Gerry Galvan said. ***Tarra V. Quismundo and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.***

CFC-Kids for Christ meet

THE 1st CFC-Kids for Christ school-based conference will be held tomorrow, Feb. 11, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Amoranto Multi Purpose Hall in Scout Chuatoco, Quezon City. The event, organized by the CFC-Kids for Christ (school-based) is open to all students ages 4-12 years old. With the theme, "Follow God's example in everything you do, because you are His dear children," (Ephesians 5:1), the conference's highlights include a Bible quiz bee, fun games, workshops, talks and a mini-praise fest. Registration fee is P100 per person (exclusive of lunch/snacks).

IVP general assembly

THE INTERNATIONAL Visitor Program Philippines (IVP Philippines) Alumni Foundation will hold its sixth annual general membership meeting tomorrow, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. IVP Philippines, headed by chair Adolfo S. Suzara, is composed of about 500 members, all former grantees of the United States International Visitors Program, who now work for the government or the private sector. It is a nongovernment volunteer organization committed to the promotion of volunteerism in society. The meeting with the theme, "Responsible Stewardship for Sustainable National Development," will be an opportunity for members to discuss important issues and future plans.



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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Protesting truckers jam roads to NLEx

By DJ Yap

TRAFFIC LEADING TO THE NORTH Luzon Expressway (NLEx) was paralyzed for hours yesterday after an organization of truckers staged a rally to protest the load limit being imposed on trucks using the expressway.

The protest, led by the Alliance of Concerned Truck Owners and Organizations (Actoo), not only snarled traffic along Andres Bonifacio Avenue in Quezon City, but also affected the operations of cargo trucks transporting goods from international and local ports to their destinations in the north.

The truckers had planned to stage a program at the NLEx tollgate to call for a moratorium on the load limit imposed by the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC). According to them, the move was causing them millions of pesos in losses daily. On their way to the expressway, however, the protesters were stopped by Metro Manila policemen on Andres Bonifacio Avenue at around 9 a.m. The number of trucks was estimated at between 150 and 300.

More than an hour later, the traffic jam had spread to nearby areas in Navotas, Caloocan and Valenzuela cities, according to Northern Police District director Chief Supt. Raul Gonzales.

According to Actoo president Ricky Papa, the MNTC's "No Overloading" policy was putting the truckers at a grave disadvantage because they were not responsible for the weight of their cargo.

"Once a container truck arrives at a port, our job is to drive it to where the shipper wants it. We don't know how much it weighs, and even if we knew it was overloaded, we can't just open it and reduce its weight because we could be charged with hijacking or pilferage," Papa added.

The MNTC imposes a load limit of 13.5 tons per axle and charges the trucker between P1,500 and P2,700 for each violation, said Teddy Gervacio, president of the Integrated North Harbor Truckers Association. To make matters worse, the truck's license plate is also confiscated, to be redeemed in two to three days, he said. "If we get caught a third time, we won't be able to make deliveries for three months," Gervacio said.

Papa said there ought to be a mechanism by which the truckers would not bear the brunt of the overloading policy. "Any given day, there are about 2,000 apprehensions. That's P2,500 per truck. That's a lot of money," he said. He added that the "immediate relief" would be to impose a temporary moratorium on the apprehensions for overloading violations. But during a brief negotiation at the Clover Leaf Interchange Tunnel, MNTC marketing director Renato Ticzon said a moratorium was not possible.

After the negotiation, which was also attended by National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Vidal Querol and Quezon City police director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., the protesters were allowed to move on. The traffic snarl, however, took hours to untangle, finally returning to normal at past noon.

Meanwhile, Department of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the NLEx is within its right to ban overloaded trucks as provided for under Republic Act No. 8794.

He said the law—"An Act Imposing A Motor Vehicle User's Charge on All Types of Motor Vehicles and for Other Purposes"—states that "when a vehicle is overloaded," it can be stopped from passing through a road where it is likely to cause some cracks. *With Armand N. Nocum and Nancy C. Carvajal*

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Boehringer Ingelheim

Bisolvon®
solve ang ubo,
solve sa
Pa-premyo!

Contest Mechanics:

1. Ang Bisolvon® Solve ang Ubo, Solve sa Pa-premyo! Raffle promo ay bukas sa lahat ng tumatangkilik ng Bisolvon®. Ang raffle promo ay magsisimula sa January 9, 2006 hanggang March 31, 2006.

2. Sa bawat P40 na halaga na Bisolvon® na nabili (single transaction only), makakatanggap ng isang (1) raffle entry at maari nang sumali sa raffle promo. Kung ang nabiling Bisolvon® products ay umabot ng P80 o higit pa, makakantanggap ng dalawa (2) o higit pang mga raffle coupons

3. Isulat sa raffle entry ang pangalan, tirahan, numero ng telepono o cellphone, pirmahan at ilagay ang pangalan ng participating drugstore branch kung saan nabili ang inyong Bisolvon® product. Ilakip ang resibo ng nabiling Bisolvon® product kasama ang iyong raffle entry at ihulog sa drop box sa loob ng participating drugstore branch.

4. Bago ganapin ang raffle draw, ang mga kinatawan ng Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) ang magliiista sa mga raffle entries upang magamit bilang Bisolvon® database. Ang mga kinatawan din ang susuri sa mga ipinadalang raffle entries at nakalakip na resibo kung ang mga ito ay nakapasa sa mga tuntunin ng raffle promo. Ang mga nasuri at nakapasang raffle coupons ay ilalagay sa isang malaking drop box na nakatalaga sa 24th Floor ng BI office para sa weekly at grand draws.

5. Ang weekly draws para sa dalawamput-dalawang (22) mananalo ay gaganapin tuwing Biyernes, 2pm. Ang mga sumusunod ay ang schedule ng weekly raffle draws kasama ang oras at petsa ng pagtanggap sa mga raffle entries:

Entry Cut off Date and Time	Drow Date and Time
10 WEEKLY DRAWS	
January 20, 2006, 12nn	January 20, 2006, 2pm
January 27, 2006, 12nn	January 26, 2006, 2pm
February 3, 2006, 12nn	February 3, 2006, 2pm
February 10, 2006, 12nn	February 10, 2006, 2pm
February 17, 2006, 12nn	February 17, 2006 2pm
February 24, 2006, 12nn	February 24, 2006 2pm
March 3, 2006, 12nn	March 3, 2006, 2pm
March 10, 2006, 12nn	March 10, 2006, 2pm
March 17, 2006, 12nn	March 17, 2006, 2pm
March 24, 2006, 12nn	March 24, 2006, 2pm
GRAND RAFFLE DRAW	
March 27, 2006, 5pm	March 31, 2006, 2pm

Maaring sumali ang mga may edad labingwalo (18) pababa ngunit kinakailangang sila'y may kasamang magulang o guardian sa pagpuno ng raffle coupons at pagkuha ng premyo sakaling sila'y manalo.

6. Ang sampung (10) weekly raffle draws ay gaganapin sa 23rd Floor ng Boehringer Ingelheim, Phil. Inc, Citibank Towers, Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City. Ang mga sumusunod ang maaaring mapalanunan:
- 10 cell phone load na nagkakahalaga ng Php500 mula sa Globe o Smart
- 10 Gift certificates na nagkakahalaga ng Php1,000
- 1 Mobile phone na nagkakahalaga ng Php15,000
- 1 Playstation Portable (PSP)

7. Ang Grand Raffle Draw ay gaganapin sa 23rd Floor ng Boehringer Ingelheim, Phil. Inc, Citibank Towers, Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City. Ang mga sumusunod ang maaaring mapalanunan:
- Grand Prize- Toyota Innova
- Second Prizes- Home showcases na binubuo ng mga sumusunod:
1. Living Room showcase: Sala set, TV with DVD
2. Kitchen Showcase: microwave, dining set, refrigerator
3. Entertainment Showcase: TV 29-31" with DVD player and Magic Sing microphone
4. Three (3) Scooters
- Consolation Prizes: 10 winners ng Gift certificates na nagkakahalaga ng Php10,000

8. Ang mga nagwagi sa weekly draws ay tatawagan ng Boehringer Ingelheim-Consumer Healthcare (BI-CHC) at agad na padadalhan ng kanlnag napalanunang prepaid load kung sila ay nanalo ng Smart e-load o Globe Autoload. Ang iba pang nagwagi ng weekly prizes ay padadalhan ng telegrama o sulat mula sa koreo. Maaari nilang makuha ang kanilang premyo sa opisina ng BI. Para sa mga provincial winners, isang BI-CHC Key Accounts Rep ang personal ng maghahatid ng kanilang premyo.

9. Maaari lamang manalo ng isang beses sa weekly raffle draw. Kung ang inyong pangalan ay maulit na mabunot sa isang draw, ang premyong may mas mataas na halaga ang mapapalanunan.

10. Ang mga raffle entries na hindi mabubunot ay maaari pa ring hirangin sa susunod na weekly raffle draw at sa Grand Raffle Draw.

11. Ang huling petsa sa oras at pagtanggap ng raffle entries para sa Grand Raffle Draw ay March 27, 2006 sa ganap na 5:00pm.

12. Ang Grand Raffle Draw para sa Grand Prize, Second Prize, at consolation prizes ay gaganapin sa March 31, 2006 sa ganap na 2:00pm.

13. Maaari lamang manalo ng isang (1) beses sa Grand Raffle Draw. Kung ang iyong pangalan ay maulit na mabunot sa isang draw, ang premyong may mas mataas ng halaga ang mapapalanunan.

14. Ang Boehringer Ingelheim ay may tanging karapatan na palitan ang mga premyo ng may katulad o higit pang halaga.

15. Ang mga nagwagi sa Grand Prize, Second Prize at consolation prizes ay tatawagan at padadalhan ng sulat mula sa koreo. Maaaring kunin ng mga nagwagi ang kanilang premyo sa opisina ng Boehringer Ingelheim (Phils.), Inc. sa pamamagitan ng pagpapakita ng dalawang valid ID's. Hindi ipagkakaloob ng Boehringer Ingelheim sa kahit na sinumang kinatawan ang napalanunang premyo.

16. Ang mga premyo an maaaring makuha sa loob ng anim (6) na buwan mula sa petsa ng pagkakahirang at ito ay hindi maaaring ipagpalit sa cash. Kung ang premyo ay hindi nakuha sa loob ng animnapung (60) araw mula sa pagtanggap ng notification, ang premyo ay maaaring bawiin ng Boehringer Ingelheim matapos ang pagsang-ayon ng DOH-BFAD.

17. Boehringer Ingelheim, Phil. Inc. ang siyang magbayad ng 20% ng karampatang buwis. Ang lahat ng iba pang buwis o bayad ay kailangang bayaran ng nagwagi

18. Ang lahat ng opisyal at empleyado ng Boehringer Ingelheim, kabilang ang kanilang advertising at promo agencies, kabilang ang kanilang mga kamag-anak hanggang ikalawang antas ng affinity o consanguinity ay hindi maaaring sumali sa promo.
Ang lahat ng opisyal at empleyado ng mga participating drugstores ay hindi rin pinahihintulutang sumali.

19. Ang anumang desisyon na igawad ng Boehringer Ingelheim, Phils. Inc. at ng DOH-BFAD ukol sa promo ay pinal hindi na maaaring magbago.

Boehringer Ingelheim
Boehringer Ingelheim (Phil.), Inc.
Consumer Health Care
23/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas,
Salcedo Village, Makati City. Tel no. (632) [illegible]

Additional information available upon request
Per DOH-BFAD permit no. 0939 s 2006

Adverse Reaction

Bisolvon is generally well tolerated. Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and other mild gastro-intestinal side effects have been reported. Allergic reactions including, skin rashes, urticaria, bronchospasm, angio-oedema and anaphylaxis have also been reported.

RAIN or Shine's Gilbert Malabanan (left) and Jay-R Reyes apply the arm lock on Magnolia's Kelly Williams during a rebound scramble. RUDY ESPERAS

Wizards avert sweep

By Jasmine W. Payo

MAGNOLIA CAME PSYCHED UP FOR A COMEBACK and blasted Rain or Shine, 80-70, yesterday to stay alive in the PBL Heroes Cup title series at the San Andres Gym.

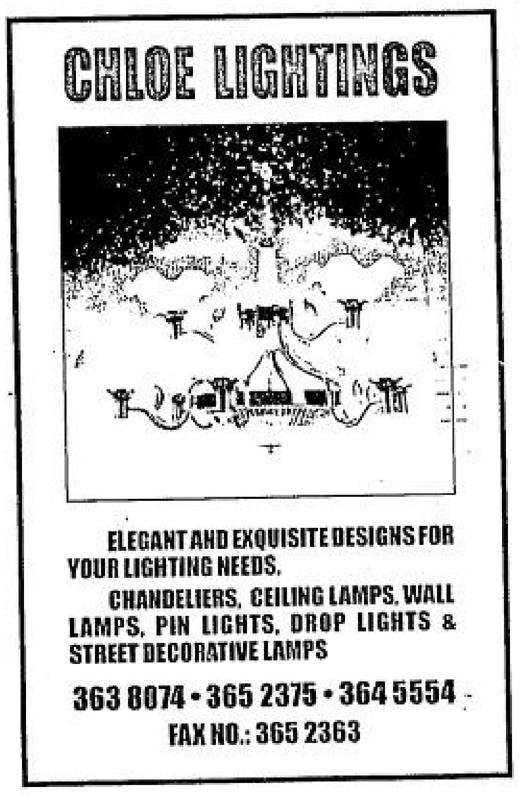
WIZARDS/ A26

Olympic gold hinges on big PSC budget

BACOLOD REP. MONICO PUENTEVELLA YESTERDAY said the country can kiss its Olympic medal hopes in Beijing goodbye if the Philippine Sports Commission does not get a substantial increase for the P28 million budget for 2006 which the Senate approved last month.

"I am optimistic that they (senators) will reward and not insult our athletes after our triumph in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games," Puentevella said in a text message to reporters. "Or else, kiss any medal in Beijing goodbye."

But he remains optimistic that things can be worked out in the bicameral committee. The House of Representatives had earlier approved a P250 million budget for PSC. *Musong R. Castillo*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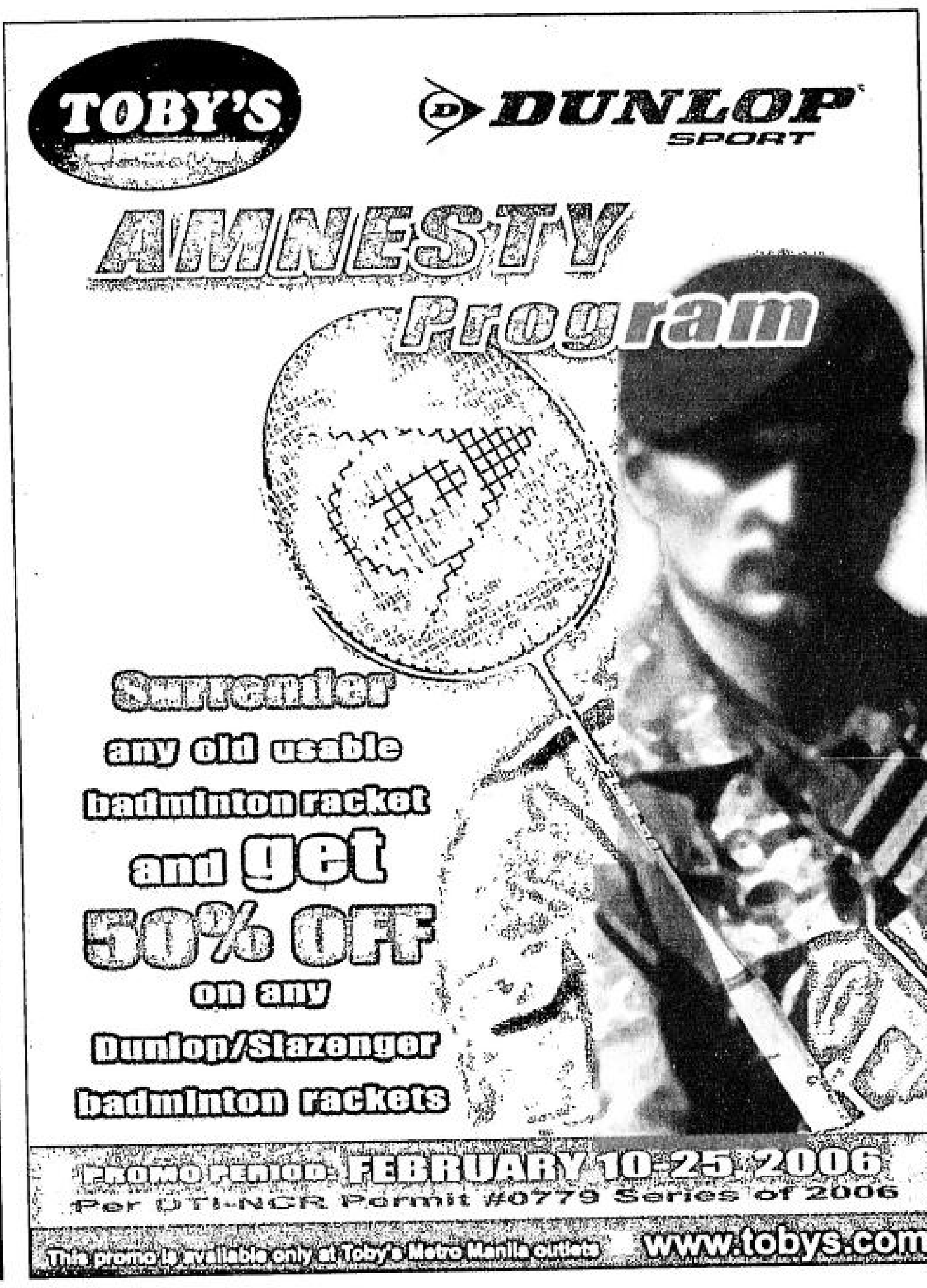
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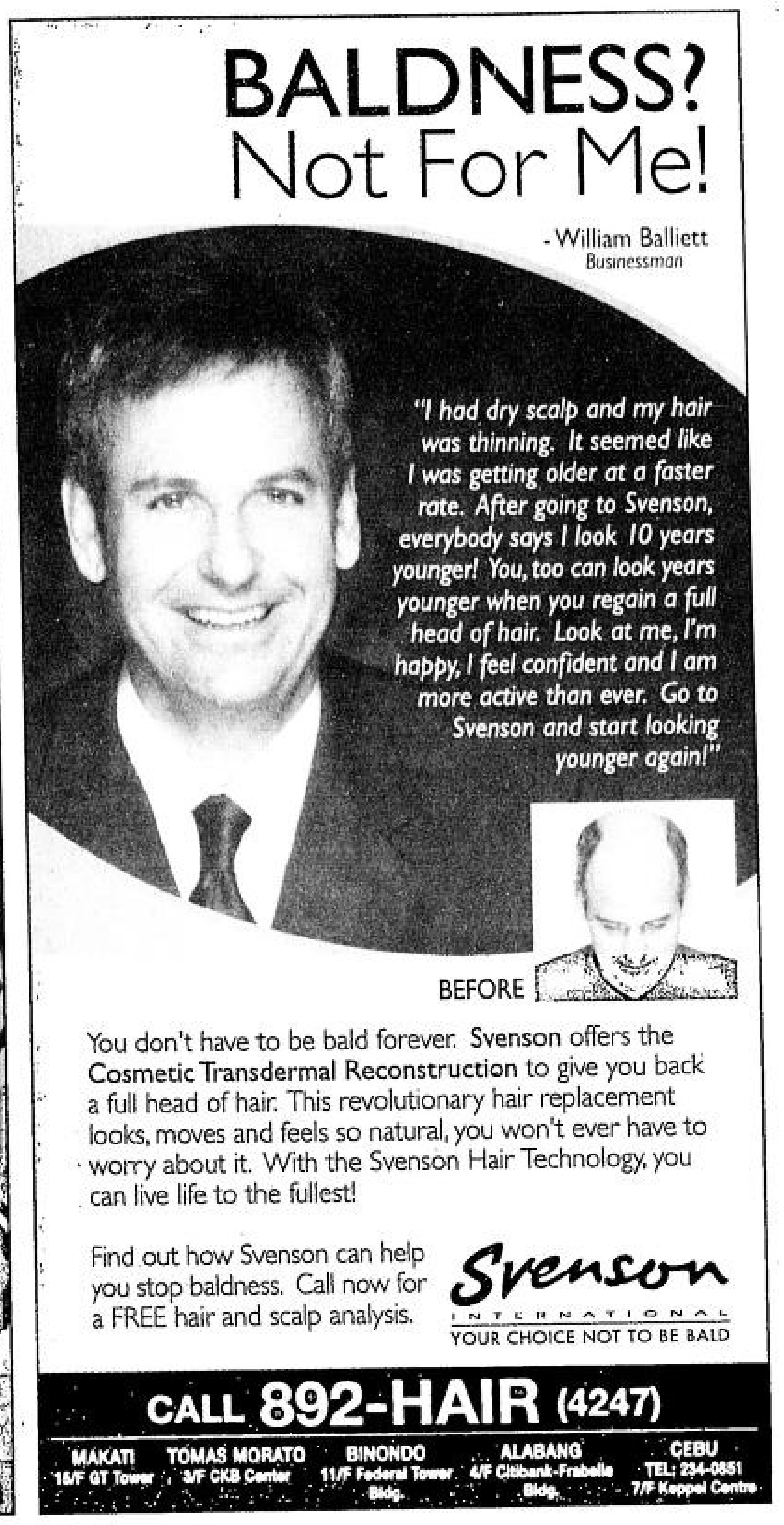
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Not For Me!
- William Balliett
Businessman

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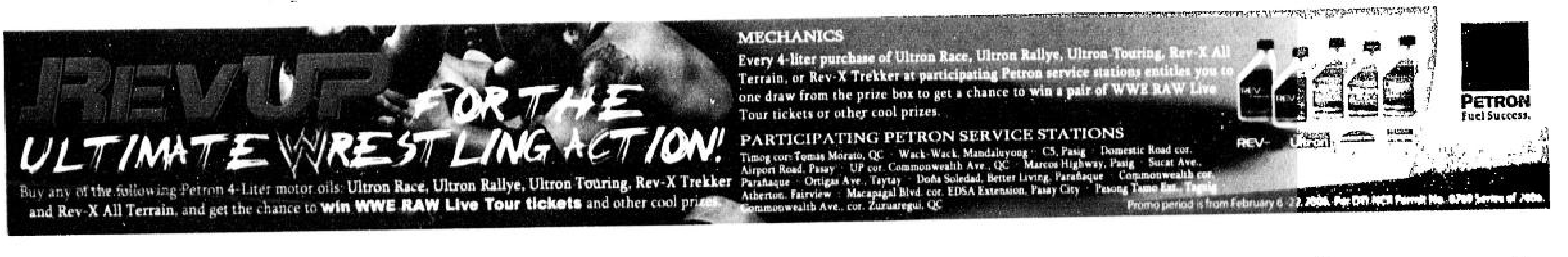
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Promo period is from February 6-22, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6760 Series of 2006.
PETRON Fuel Success.

BENJIE Magada (left) uses his club to point the way out for amateur partner Ryan Lam after landing his second shot into the ravine at No. 13 of the Riviera's tough Langer course. ERIK ARAZAS

Cantada-Tanpinco wrests lead

By Jong Arcano

SILANG, CAVITE—HOWLING WINDS bended trees, twisted flagsticks and sent the players in the Konica Minolta National Pro-Am down on their knees yesterday.

When Round 2 was over, two familiar figures—Gerard Cantada and JR Tanpinco—emerged from the brutal conditions at the Langer of the Riviera Golf and Country Club with a seven-over-par 78 that put them on top of the leaderboard.

It was the highest score ever to lead a round in the young history of the tournament.

"It's hard to believe that we're leading, but we'll gladly take it," said Cantada, whose team brings into the third-round action a one-shot lead over Richard Abaring and Marvin Dumandan with their eight-over-par 152 aggregate.

Abaring and Dumandan carded a 79 for 153, one shot ahead of other four teams sharing third place in the P1.7-million event presented by U-Bix Corp. in cooperation with Konica Minolta Technologies of Japan.

The combinations of Lito Rempojo-Gene Bondoc (77), Jess Casas-Boyet Saragoza (78), Jess Hernandez-Jay Baron (78) and Zaldy Salvador-Rufino Bayron (79) stayed in the hunt for the crown despite their soaring scores.

Rempojo and Bondoc's 77 were the best on a day when only seven of the 105 teams were able to break 80 after running smack into winds of up to almost 60 kph. Solomon-Gines-Erwin Vinluan also had the same score and skyrocketed from 39th to a tie for 11th.

First-round leaders Erwin Arcillas and Bong Ubasa limped home with an 87 and dropped eight shots off the new leaders at 160, in a tie with four others.

The contending teams could only hope for improved conditions today when the top 30 pairs plus ties get into the final 18 holes tomorrow.

Part of Cantada and Tanpinco's adventures was a four-putt double-bogey on the par-3 17th, where the pin placement on a slope added to the problem of the winds strong enough to move balls on the green.

The 36-hole cut was an unbelievable 22 over with at least 30 teams still getting a shot at moving into the money round.

The winning pro here gets P234,940 and his amateur partner P58,735 worth of merchandise.

The event is backed chiefly by Grappa's Ristorante, Pivo Praha and S-Yard and supported by Airlift Asia, Brother, Riso, Epson, BMG Solar, WWW.Express, Airlift Asia, Waste Management Systems Inc., PSC, PCI Bank, Unionbank, Metro Bank, Riso, ServiceMaster, Land Bank, Casio, Epson and Okamura Furniture.

Erratic Giants seek to bounce back in Game 2

GAME TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
6:45 p.m.—Red Bull vs Purefoods Chunkee
Game 1—Red Bull d. Purefoods, 107-102

TURNOVERS BY the enemy paved the way for Red Bull's Game 1 win Wednesday.

Now the Bulls try to strike for a 2-0 lead in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference Finals by again forcing the Purefoods Chunkee Giants into a maze of errors today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Game 2 is set at 6:45 p.m.

A conference-high 32 turnovers by the Giants—which the Bulls converted into 38 points—proved decisive in the 107-102 overtime Red Bull victory in the opener of the best-of-seven series.

"You need not be a rocket scientist to figure out why we lost," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio. "There's no way we're going to win the game throwing the ball away 32 times."

Still, the Giants stayed in the game until Enrico Villanueva outplayed Kerby Raymundo in the extra period to score nine of Red Bull's 18 points.

Villanueva finished with 25 points and completely asserted himself on Raymundo, the leading candidate for the best player of the conference award, who was saddled by fouls and eventually fouled out.

"We have to [give it to] Enrico," said Gregorio, who is gunning for a second coaching crown after steering the Giants to the 2002 Governors Cup title. "The fouling [ploy on Villanueva] didn't work because he made the key free throws in the end.

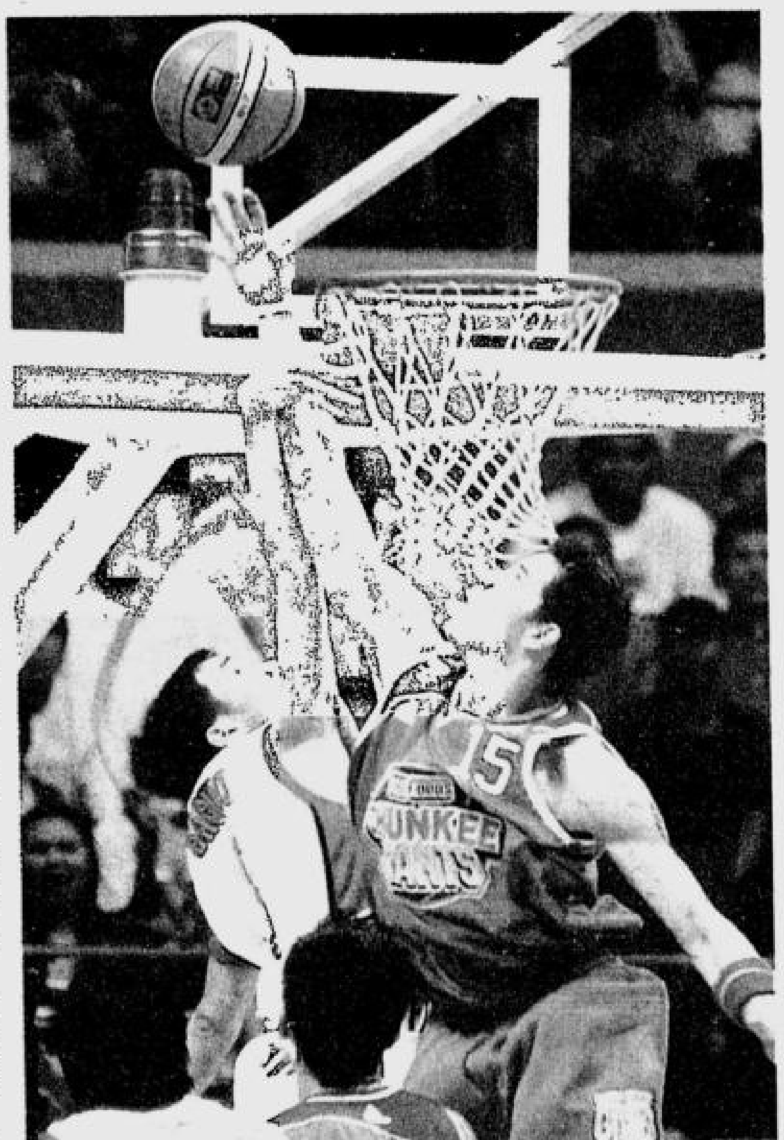
"But more than anything else, we shot ourselves in the foot by giving away those 38 points off turnovers."

Following a tough rotation matchup against Chris Porter, Eric Menk and Rommel Adducul during the Red Bull-Ginebra semifinal series, Villanueva came out smarter and more motivated than usual.

"I'm not surprised," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao. "He's been playing hard against Menk and Adducul. I guess he's personally challenged with his matchup against Kerby, so that was an added motivation for him."

Seeking a fifth PBA crown, Guiao has again vowed to use the same battle plan on both ends.

James Penny also proved the better import in his matchup with Marquin Chandler, particularly when the game was on the line. Penny scored seven of the Bulls' last nine points going into the extension period.



PUREFOODS' Mark Pingris (right) rejects a driving Cyrus Baguio of Red Bull in the series opener Wednesday. The Bulls drew first blood. RYAN LIM

Wizards avert title sweep

From page A25

GAME SUNDAY
(*San Andres Gym*)
3:30 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Magnolia
(Game 4 Finals)

"Our desire to win was there," said Magnolia coach Koy Banal after the Wizards broke the ice in Game 3 of the best-of-five series.

"It looks like we're dead, but there's still hope."

The Wizards avoided a sweep by turning to Arwind Santos, who scored 14 points and grabbed 13 rebounds. Also delivering notable performances were playmaker Kim Valenzuela, Mark Isip and Jason Misolas.

"Before the game, our battle cry was refuse to be swept," added Banal, whose squad halted the Elasto Painters' nine-game winning streak.

Junjun Cabatu, who averaged 20.5 points for the Painters in the title series, was held to only nine markers this time.

Most Valuable Player Jojo Tangkay of Rain or Shine was slapped with an unsportsmanlike foul after hitting Santos on the face with 5:08 left.

Santos nailed his four free throws off Tangkay's foul and the Wizards went on to lead by as many as 14 points at 69-55.

The Wizards posted their first double-digit edge, 48-38, early in the third period, but Gilbert Malabanan fueled a rally that moved the Painters within 51-49.

After a Valenzuela triple halted the Painters' charge, Magnolia wrested the momentum for a 59-51 edge at the end of the third quarter.

The scores:

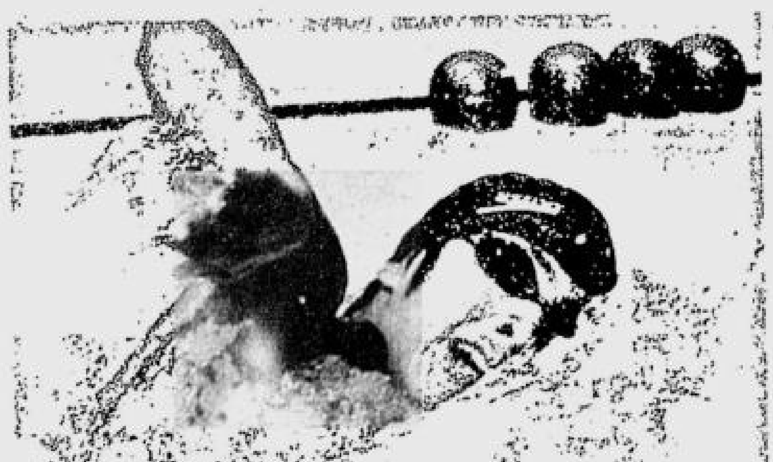
MAGNOLIA 80—Valenzuela 14, Santos 14, Isip 11, Misolas 10, Williams 9, Jones 8, Rizada 7, Chan 4, Bombeo 3, Angeles 0.

RAIN OR SHINE 70—Sta. Maria 14, Enrile 13, Cabatu 9, Ortiguerra 9, Malabanan 8, Tangkay 5, Reyes 5, Sagad 4, Tan 3.

Quarters: 23-19, 46-38, 59-51, 80-70

WV bets out front after swim splurge

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



WESTERN Visayas' Kevin King on his way to the 1,500-meter freestyle gold in 19:40.73. RAY B. ZAMBRANO, PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—DEFENDING champion Western Visayas snatched 30 gold medals after giving the opposition a terrific dunking in the pool and pulled away in the overall race of the 2006 Private Schools Athletic Association National Games here yesterday.

Veteran Kristine Cabasac accounted for six of the 20 victories by WV's women tankers, while their male counterparts prevailed in 10 events to give the delegation from Region VI 46 golds on top of 40 silvers and 36 bronzes.

"We can smell victory," a jubilant Fr. Emil Jaruda Jr., the region's delegation head, said.

Jaruda is confident that Western Visayas would be able to defend its crown and exceed its 78-gold medal harvest in the 2005 Prisaa games held in Zamboanga City.

Southern Mindanao grabbed second place overall with a gold-silver-bronze haul of 30-25-26, while Central Visayas dropped to third with 27-16-44. Southern Tagalog and host Ilocos remained fourth and fifth with respective medal collections of 24-27-17 and 15-19-3.

Philamer Celi, Prisaa executive director, said 144 of the 332 golds at stake in 12 events of the games had been won as of 4 p.m. Thursday.

Cabasac, an 18-year-old civil engineering student of the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City, prevailed in the 800-meter freestyle (11 minutes 26.14 seconds), 400-m free (5:42.60), 200-m free (2:35.72), and 100-m free (1:08.50).

She was a member of the team that won the 4x100 medley relay (5:26:37) and the 4x100 freestyle relay (5:02.63).

Together with Cabasac in the 4x400 medley relay were Angela Luz Tuble, Rheza Gonzales and Nianh Lyn Acain. Her teammates in the freestyle relay were Editha Visitacion, Kristy Litonjua and Acain.

Acain won another gold in the 200-m backstroke (2:57.03) while Vicitacion added another gold in the 50-m freestyle (30:09).

Western Visayas also struck in the 800-m women's freestyle relay through Tanya Maglapon, Charmaine Galang, Marvie Joy Reyes and Merolse Cordero (12:22.96).

Adelbert Gallos won the the men's 200-m freestyle (2:14.31) and Kevin King topped the 1,500-meter freestyle (19:40.73) to lead the WV male tankers.

The other winners were Sean Mark Rose, Mark Catlan, Erik Litonjua, Karl Roger Vince Jayme Jmark Cabasac and Michael Balinas.

In athletics, Jel Joy Papa, 19, of Western Institute of Technology in Iloilo, scored a 200-400 golden double and was part of WV teams that won the 4x400 and 4x100 relays.

SPORTSWATCH

Pazon-De Torres duel up in drag racing

THE COUNTRY'S FINEST DRAG RACERS BRACE FOR A FINAL SHOWDOWN for the titles at stake in the 2005 Red Horse-PCSO National Drag Racing Championship Series which stages its championship round tomorrow at the Drag Strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. Sonny de Torres of Group N-Jack Daniels-Matonetics Racing and Walter Pazon of Blanche Racing collide again for the Quick 8 crown. Following his victory in the last leg, Pazon, 27, now leads series with 35 points and another win will make him a shoo-in for the title. De Torres, the 36-year-old speed devil from Lipa City, was held back by a broken clutch in the last leg, although he still holds the track record of 11.912 seconds. He is just five points behind Pazon with 30 after ruling the first two stagings of the four-leg series held in cooperation with the Automobile Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Red Horse, PCSO, Petron, Sparco and supported by Pilipinas Shell, Denso Spark Plugs; Casino Filipino, GV 99.9 FM and DaBest98.5 FM.

Jungolfer Puyat scores third ace

SAMSUNG INTERSCHOOL GRADE SCHOOL CHAMPION MARCEL PUYAT aced the 165-yard eighth hole of the Valley Golf Club course for his 3rd career hole-in-one during the 3rd Fr. Horacio dela Costa Cup at the Antipolo City venue recently. Puyat used a Ben Hogan Apex Edge 6-iron and a Titleist Pro VI-X ball. The ace was the highlight of the Ateneo Alumni, 4-man team scramble event, which sparked Puyat's team that included Marty Ilagan, Marcel's dad Eu Puyat and Marcel's uncle Luis B. Puyat to a title-winning 16-under gross score. For this feat, Valley Golf Club awarded Marcel a P5,000 gift check, a trophy from the Ateneo Golf Foundation, and another P5,000 gift certificate from Ateneo Jubilarian HS Batch '81.

Pasay 4-cocker gets going

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THREE MAJOR COCKERS GROUPS ARE VYING in the Boy 2 Sa Pasay 4-Cock Derby which kicks off today at the Pasay City Cockpit. Hosts Boy Valenzuela and Lito Alcantara said mainstays of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association, Pinoy Cockers Association, and Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines are entered in the derby backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. "It will be an exciting battle of bigtime cockers," said pit manager Eric dela Rosa. For inquiries, call call 843-1890 or 843-1746.

Anniversary derby heats up today

THE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND OF ROLIGON MEGA COCKPIT'S 16TH ANniversary 6-Cock Derby, a blockbuster event that stakes a cash pot of P4 million and a Toyota Innova continues today with 134 matches lined up. Round one of the two-day finals began yesterday with 133 fights fielded. The fights start at 3 p.m. today. The Toyota Innova will be given to the participant with the fastest winning time in the championship round, said derby host Rolly Ligon. For inquiries, call 851-2275 or 833-1638.

ACE DONOR: Cats Motors president Felix Ang (left) and Manila Golf Club president F. Martin Romualdez shake hands after signing the contract making Cats Motors holes-in-one sponsor in the 38th Golden Tee which started Wednesday. The first player to ace the 165-yard sixth wins a Mercedes-Benz B-Class car and the first to ace the 173-yard 16th drives home a Chrysler 300C car.

A not so Lapid response

By Percy D. Della

COMMENTARY

CAREER MISCUES AND PROFLIGACY notwithstanding, former World Boxing Council junior lightweight champion Rolando Navarrete probably deserves a *balato* (token share of winnings) from Manny Pacquiao, his more illustrious townmate.

Despite his wayward ways, Lando, the "Bad Boy of Dadiangas" once brought honor to flag and country when he won the WBC junior lightweight crown from Cornellius Boza Edwards in 1981.

After all, Manny has been more than generous to mere hangers on in Los Angeles. The LA Boys, as colleague Recah Trinidad calls them, is a motley group serving as Pacquiao's "informal staff"—drivers, cooks, errand boys, cordon sanitaire, etc. whenever their hero hits LA.

According to the boxing website Secondsout.com, one of the boys, camp aide and interpreter Joe Ramos received $50,000—more than a windfall from Pacquiao's net earnings of $313,000 and change out of a guaranteed minimum purse of $2 million from the Morales rematch.

***

During Manny's victory celebration at The Wynn Las Vegas last week, Sen. Lito Lapid turned up the heat on erring boxing managers, promoters and the like.

Finally.

The chair of the Senate's committee on games, amusements and sports wants Senate hearings on why former world champion Luisito Espinosa has not been paid his championship purse from nine years ago.

While whopping it up with a blue-ribbon gang of Pacquiao supporters, Lapid told Espinosa's erstwhile manager Hermie Rivera now is just as good as any to remedy many of the oppressive and unethical business practices which have cheated professional boxers like Luisito.

Lapid wants to hold the hearings in aid of legislation against people who thumbed their nose at sports authorities by refusing to honor their commitment to boxers.

Luisito, now 38, has been temporarily stripped of his license by the athletic commission in California recently. Several savage losses to upstarts are too much for the commission's sympathetic chair to bear.

Abandoned by his wife and still awaiting his unpaid prize of $150,000, the two-time world champion lives in his manager's household in Fairfield, west of San Francisco.

Recently granted a green card by the United States, Luisito is ironically past his prime as a boxer. Luisito probably will come home in no time, if and when he gets the money due him from ex-South Cotabato governor Larry de Pedro, manager Rod Nazario and matchmaker Lito Mondejar.

***

Sports note: While taping an interview with Rivera after Manny's victory, Dyan Castillejo of ABS-CBN had her derriere dinged by a Filipino fan in a fit of drunken frenzy. With camera rolling Dyan stopped her sound bite search to confront the lascivious lad who had touched her lovely behind. Oh well, all in a day's work for the industrious TV interviewer, according to Rivera.

No oversight, Ramos insists

ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION WOMEN's Committee deputy chair Cristy Ramos has accused the Philippine Football Federation of misleading its members over its failure to enter the national women's under-19 team for the Asian Under-19 women's championship in April.

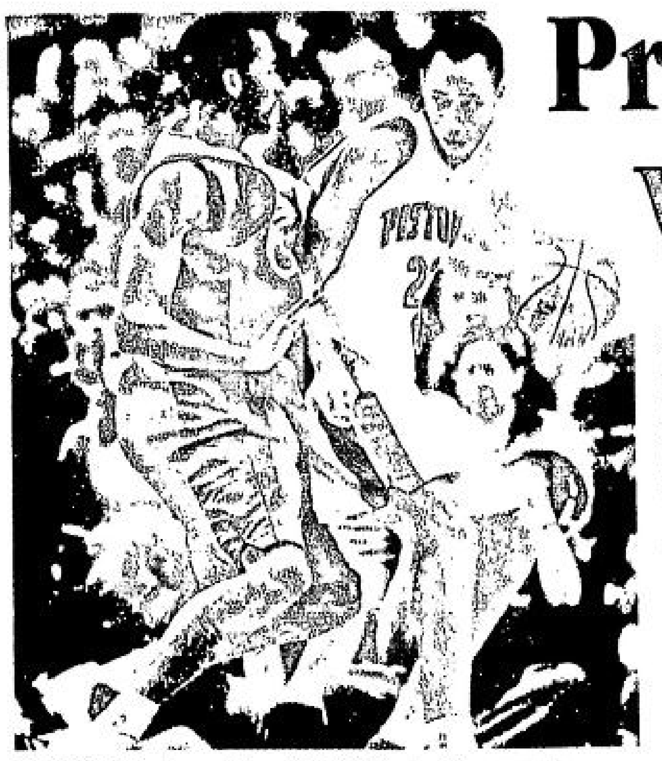
The PFF told the team in January that it was not competing in the event because it failed to meet the Aug. 31 deadline for entries.

Ramos wrote the PFF Monday in reaction to a letter sent by the federation's acting general secretary Domeka Garamendi to PFF members.

In the letter, Garamendi maintained that the failure of the PFF to meet the Aug. 31, 2005 deadline to submit the entry form to the tournament was a "clerical oversight."

But Ramos replied: "I personally checked with the PFF if they sent any documents, such as a letter of intent to participate or the official entry form itself, to the AFC on or before Aug. 31, but no such documents were found in their files."

Prince revs up Pistons; Wizards weave magic



PISTONS' Tayshaun Prince (right) tries to drive around Clippers' Quinton Ross during their NBA game. REUTERS

NEW YORK—A STRONG FOURTH quarter by Tayshaun Prince revitalized the Detroit Pistons and helped the league leaders overcome the Los Angeles Clippers, 97-87, in Auburn Hills on Wednesday.

Prince scored 11 of his 22 points in the final quarter to help the Pistons snap their first two-game losing streak of the season.

"Our energy level has been down," Prince told reporters after the game. "That's why I knew the fourth quarter was the time to get aggressive."

Rasheed Wallace scored 19 points for the Pistons and Chauncey Billups had 18.

Detroit (40-8), which has the best overall record in the NBA, beat the Clippers for the seventh straight time and ended Los Angeles' four-game winning streak.

Elton Brand led the Clippers with 30 points, while Cuttino Mobley added 27.

In Washington, Gilbert Arenas scored 45 points as the Wizards beat the Golden State Warriors 129-124. Caron Butler added 34 points and had 15 rebounds for the Wizards.

Jason Richardson scored 31 points and Baron Davis added 28 points and had 13 assists for the Warriors.

In Toronto, Tony Parker scored 32 points and had 12 assists as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Raptors, 125-118, in overtime.

Michael Finley added 23 points for the Spurs, who were missing Tim Duncan due to the flu.

In East Rutherford, Vince Carter scored 22 points as the New Jersey Nets beat the New York Knicks ,96-83.

In Charlotte, Melvin Ely scored 19 points and had 10 rebounds as the Bobcats beat the Philadelphia 76ers, 100-92. *Reuters*

SOLAR Sports will air the Miami-Dallas tussle at 9 a.m. with a replay at 8 p.m. today.

Breakthrough for women's billiards

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT IS TRUE THAT WOMEN'S BILLIARDS IS in vogue in the Philippines, but determined sports officials are still taking a bold step by hosting the first ever Asian Ladies Tournament sometime in April or on a date that does not conflict with any of the major pool events in the region.

If all goes according to plan, the pioneering event will feature the finest female players from Asia and those who saw action in the last Southeast Asian Games, including the sport's newest sensation, Kim Ga-young of Korea, and our very own Rubilen Amit, who won the SEA Games gold medals in both the 8-ball and 9-ball singles.

This Manila tourney is envisioned to serve as the kick-off leg of the proposed four-leg Asian Ladies Tour to be held in four Southeast Asian countries, possibly Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. The tour will be sanctioned by the Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports.

Hatched during a meeting of SEA Games delegation heads presided by billiards and snooker president Ernie Fajardo and billiards godfather Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, the Asian Ladies Tour is aimed at promoting billiards among women and, at the same time, help them prepare for the coming Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, on Dec. 1-15.

Officials of ESPN/Star Sports are willing to air the first Asian Ladies Tour in their worldwide TV network covering 39 countries with an expected audience of half a billion.

There will be 16 slots available for each leg, with the Southeast Asian country (Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore) given two slots each for a total of 10. The remaining six slots will be offered to other Southeast Asian members. If there are still available slots, they will be offered to other Asian countries like China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan, all of which have world-rated players. The matches will be a race to seven racks, alternate break in a double elimination format, to give all participants maximum exposure and playing time. The semifinals and final matches will be race to nine, alternate breaks.

This early, the main focus is on Korean lady champion Kim. Although virtually unknown to many Filipino fans, the 20-year-old Kim has an impressive record, having recently won both the US Ladies Open and the American Ladies Invitational Open. Gifted with a natural shotmaking ability and awesome safety games, Kim scored smashing victories over top American players like Alison Fisher and Karen Corr, whose string of upset wins included triumphs over male players like former world champions Earl Strickland and Johnny Archer, both of the United States; and Ralf Souquet of Germany.

Also a player to watch is the Philippines' Rubilen Amit. The most dominant woman player in last year's SEA Games, the 24-year-old Amit is a well-rounded player, a mean machine with a heart of steel. A native of Cebu, Amit is a BS Accountancy graduate of the University of Santo Tomas who was honed to near perfection for the SEA Games by playing against the country's best male players—and beating them.

"My confidence was boosted by Sir Putch (Puyat), who pitted me against the top men pros," Amit stressed.

"Amit never fails to amaze the fans," said Ernie Fajardo in an interview. "*May diskarte sa* pool table. She can clean up, hole in a bank shot and play safety. She is cool and graceful even under tremendous pressure."

Amit is now training for the World Games and World Pool Championship in Taiwan next month. "She's ready to do battle," said coach Boyet Asonto.

Cotoco-Lacson rules Bill Shaw

SENIOR GOLFERS GONZALO COTOCO and his guest partner Archie Lacson combined for a two-day score of 196 to emerge overall champion of the 17th Bill Shaw Memorial Golf Classic at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City recently.

Cotoco and Lacson carded an aggregate net of 134 at the west course and assembled a 62 in scramble play the next day to show up the 240 teams which took part in the 36-hole tourney presented by PLDT-Business Solutions.

Antonio De Mesa and Gino Bunye won the low gross plum. They shot a 140 in aggregate and 59 in scramble play for a 199 total.

Winning the division titles were Augusto Theodore De Jesus-Anthony Fernando in Group I, Neptali Gonzales II-Gene Sison in Group II, Roberto Lastimoso-Katsuro Fukumoto in Group III, and Pablo C. Soon-Danny Pizarro in the seniors category. The Pagcor tandem of Leo Bote and Junnel Roxas ruled the sponsors category.

More than P10 million in prizes were given away, the bulk of which were the hole-in-one prizes put up by Audi A4 from PGA Cars, Mercedes Benz from CATS Motors, Inc., Camry from Toyota Motor Phils. Corp., Fortuner from Toyota Balintawak, Inc., a Mitsubishi Lancer GLX from Union Motors Corp. & Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp., a Yamaha Golf Cart from Kart Plaza and a Club Car from Turf Co., two world business class tickets to the East Coast from Northwest Airlines.

Rado also donated a wristwatch on all hole-in-one designated holes.

Major sponsors were Samsung Electronics, Pacsports Phils., Inc., Taylormade, Golf Gallery, San Miguel Corp., Philippine Airlines, Unilever Phils., Boysen Paints, Sta. Elena Properties, Inc., Hyundai Appliances.

Club president Benjamin Abalos and Sports and Games chair Pablo C. Soon, who also headed the organizing committee and the Wack Wack Board of Directors thank the participants and sponsors.

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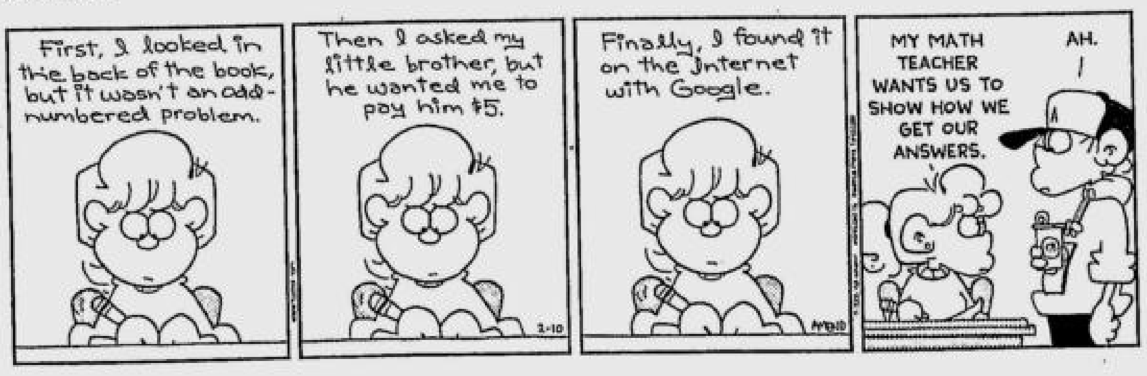
Winston
No minors allowed. Open to persons 18 years old and above only. Organizer reserves the right to refuse entry to those without IDs as proof of age.
Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

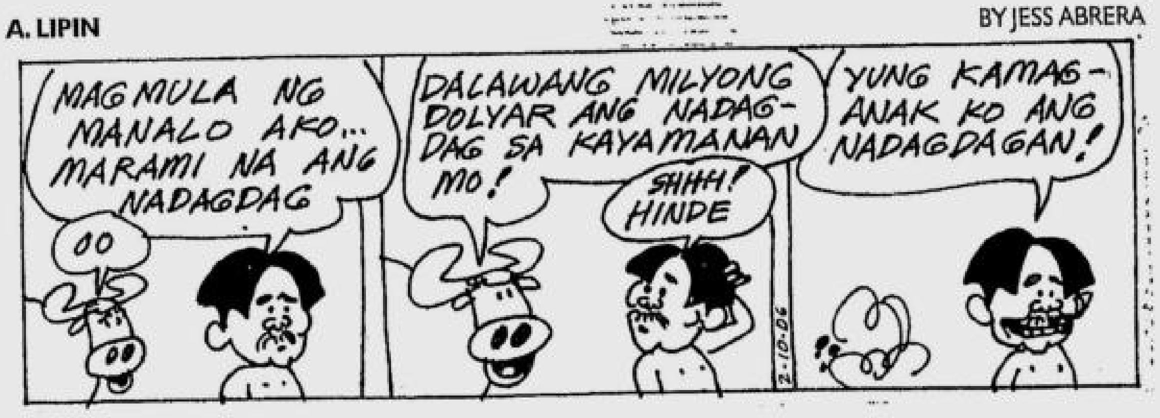
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


First, I looked in the back of the book, but it wasn't an odd-numbered problem.
Then I asked my little brother, but he wanted me to pay him $5.
Finally, I found it on the Internet with Google.
MY MATH TEACHER WANTS US TO SHOW HOW WE GET OUR ANSWERS.
AH.
2-10

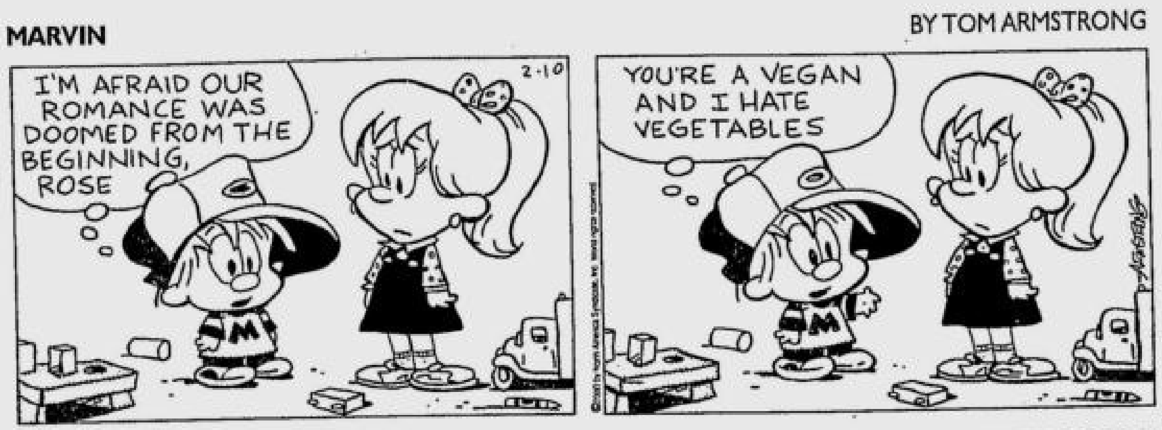
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAG MULA NG MANALO AKO... MARAMI NA ANG NADAGDAG
OO
DALAWANG MILYONG DOLYAR ANG NADAGDAG SA KAYAMANAN MO!
SHHH! HINDE
YUNG KAMAG-ANAK KO ANG NADAGDAGAN!
2-10-06

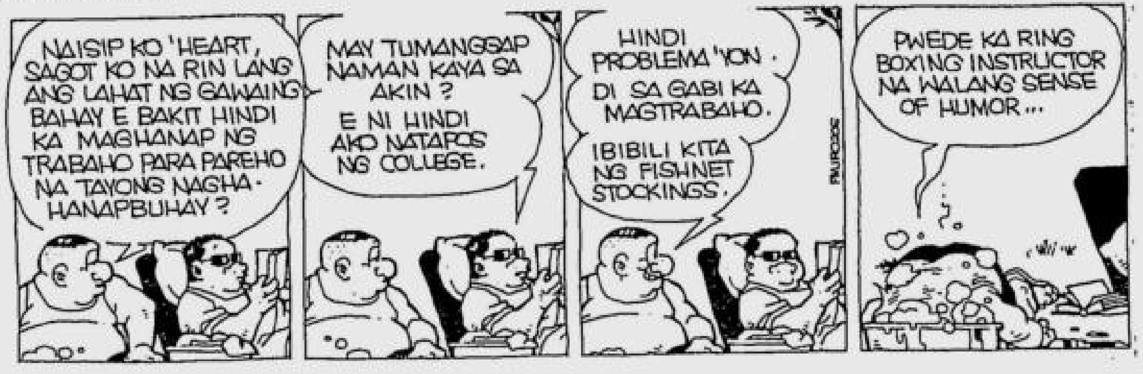
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'M AFRAID OUR ROMANCE WAS DOOMED FROM THE BEGINNING, ROSE
2-10
YOU'RE A VEGAN AND I HATE VEGETABLES

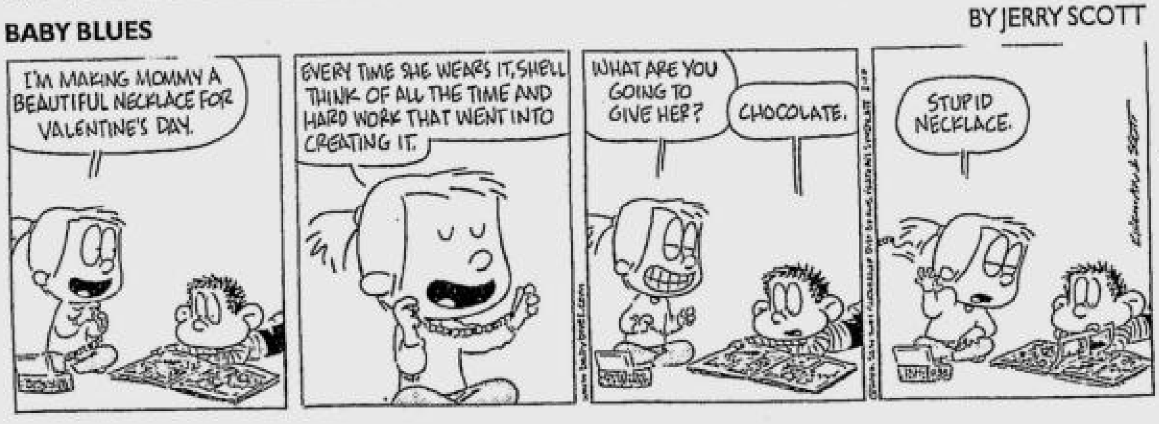
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAISIP KO 'HEART, SAGOT KO NA RIN LANG ANG LAHAT NG GAWAING BAHAY E BAKIT HINDI KA MAGHANAP NG TRABAHO PARA PAREHO NA TAYONG NAGHA-HANAPBUHAY?
MAY TUMANGGAP NAMAN KAYA SA AKIN? E NI HINDI AKO NATAPOS NG COLLEGE.
HINDI PROBLEMA 'YON. DI SA GABI KA MAGTRABAHO. IBIBILI KITA NG FISHNET STOCKINGS.
PWEDE KA RING BOXING INSTRUCTOR NA WALANG SENSE OF HUMOR...

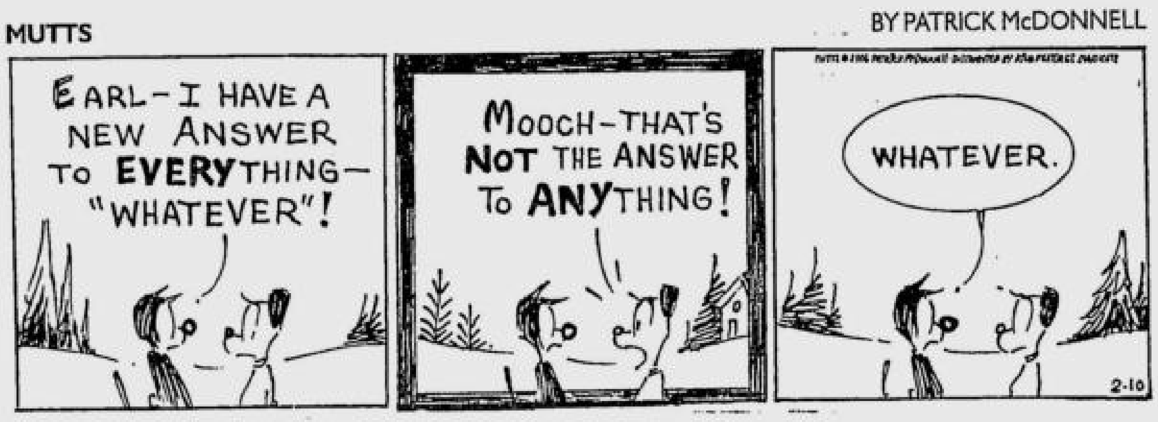
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M MAKING MOMMY A BEAUTIFUL NECKLACE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY.
EVERY TIME SHE WEARS IT, SHE'LL THINK OF ALL THE TIME AND HARD WORK THAT WENT INTO CREATING IT.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE HER?
CHOCOLATE.
STUPID NECKLACE.

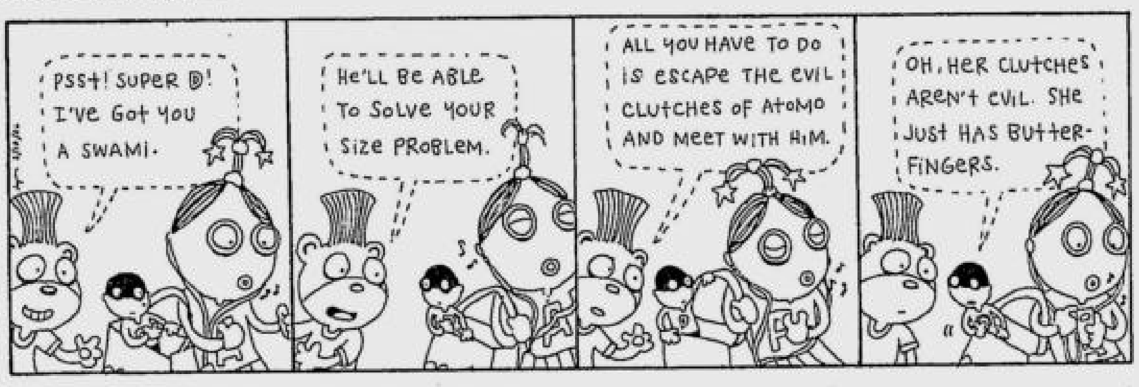
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL—I HAVE A NEW ANSWER TO EVERYTHING—"WHATEVER"!
MOOCH—THAT'S NOT THE ANSWER TO ANYTHING!
WHATEVER.
2-10

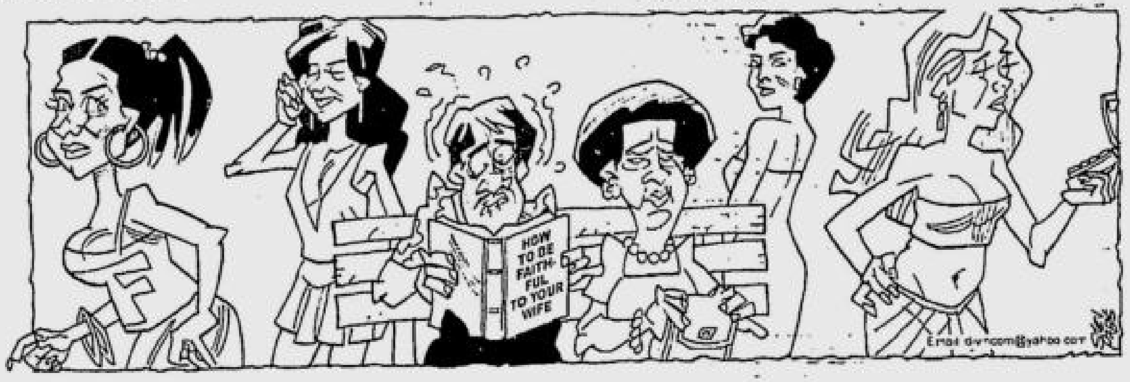
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


PSST! SUPER D! I'VE GOT YOU A SWAMI.
HE'LL BE ABLE TO SOLVE YOUR SIZE PROBLEM.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ESCAPE THE EVIL CLUTCHES OF ATOMO AND MEET WITH HIM.
OH, HER CLUTCHES AREN'T EVIL. SHE JUST HAS BUTTER-FINGERS.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HOW TO BE FAITHFUL TO YOUR WIFE

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are highly individualistic and certainly confident. These qualities allow you to strike your own path in life. You value recognition, but you won't sell out to get it; your self-respect comes first. Because your ideas are so cutting-edge, many people follow and admire you. Partnerships and close friendships are your focus in the year ahead.
Birthdate of: Greg Norman, golfer; Leontyne Price, singer; Laura Dern, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to talk to friends or members of groups to which you might belong. Tell others about your hopes and dreams for the future. Their feedback might help.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Discussions with bosses, parents and VIPs are valuable now. You're in the limelight! Not only that, but you easily impress important people.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good time to think about travel, dealing with foreign countries, returning to school or anything connected with publishing and the media. (It's your menu for the moment.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Surface explanations don't satisfy you now. You want the raw, nitty-gritty truth about something. You're willing to dig deep and look for the answers you seek.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Close friends and partners are important in your life now. You can't get someone out of your mind. (You're just going to have to live with this for a while.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You like to be organized. This doesn't necessarily mean you are—you just wish you could be. Today and tomorrow are good days to stack magazines and papers in neat piles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Vacation plans look promising! So do romantic options. It's your turn to have a little fun. (Buy something sexy to wear.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your focus continues to be on home, family, domestic matters and real estate. Put your energy here. Parents might also be a strong focus now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is not the time to stay at home. Get out there and circulate! Talk to friends, neighbors, relatives and especially siblings. Short trips will please you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): As your popularity increases, and opportunities for fun come your way, you're privately thinking about what really matters in life. You don't want to blow it.

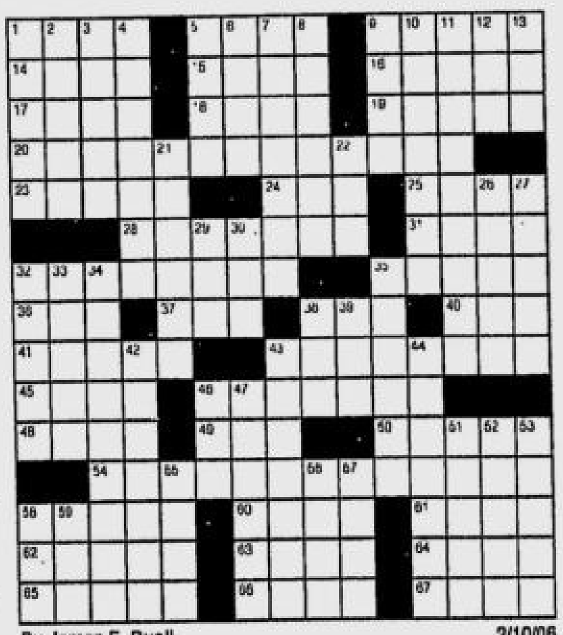
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Because the Sun is still in your sign, it's perfectly appropriate to put yourself first. It's your turn! You have to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): As your personal year comes to an end, this is the time to look back and see how well you're doing at the art of living. Are you happy with the way things are going?

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Libya neighbor
5 Junk e-mail
9 Listing
14 Crown of light
15 Luau dance
16 Ventilated felt hat
17 Sailor's saint
18 Ugandan Idi
19 Diamond covers?
20 Rich?
23 Marinara alternative
24 Feed-bag bite
25 Mr. Stravinsky
28 Twelfth of a foot
31 Oscar-winner of 1936
32 With 43A, rich?
35 Rent again
36 High mount
37 Freight weight
38 Actress Farrow
40 Chem. suffix
41 Concepts
43 See 32A
45 Lysol target
46 "Today" personality
48 Saudi or Omani
49 Hamlin's "L.A. Law" co-star
50 Bulgarian capital
54 Rich?
58 Hinder
60 Uttered
61 __ Bator
62 Former Mrs. Trump
63 "The Neverending Story" author
64 Oahu goose
65 Social gathering
66 Old Mobil rival
67 Sketched

DOWN
1 Cut-price
2 Actress Berry
3 Gluck and Mahler
4 Swindle
5 Reza Pahlavi, e.g.
6 Cougar
7 Monthly payment, for some
8 Raving lunatic
9 Westernmost of the Aleutians
10 Brit's break
11 Like some verbs
12 Drink like a puppy
13 "__ the wind and nothing more"
21 Run amok
22 Utmost degree
26 In an upright position
27 Formal ceremonies
29 Music producer Brian
30 "Holiday __"
32 Subarctic forest
33 More seasoned
34 Met diva
35 Most unrefined
38 Bovine sound
39 Annoy
42 On all sides
43 Skillets
44 Sonorous
46 Sugary drink
47 Apartment dweller
51 Manicurist, e.g.
52 Pointless
53 Nixon's veep
55 Heavy cart
56 Tupperware pieces
57 Graphic beginning?
58 Brief swim
59 Longoria of "Desperate Housewives"



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
2/10/06

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	H	U	T	S	■	F	O	A	L	■	P	E	N	S
H	I	N	D	U	■	I	D	L	E	■	A	L	I	T
A	H	U	S	B	A	N	D	I	S	■	R	I	S	E
M	O	M	■	L	L	D	S	■	O	U	T	W	I	T
■	■	■	D	E	I	■	■	S	T	R	I	A	■	■
L	I	K	E	A	F	I	R	E	H	E	■	L	T	S
A	L	I	A	S	■	N	E	R	O	■	B	L	I	P
T	O	N	N	E	■	E	G	G	■	E	R	A	T	O
I	N	G	E	■	C	V	I	I	■	N	A	C	H	O
N	A	S	■	G	O	E	S	O	U	T	W	H	E	N
■	■	A	M	O	U	R	■	■	N	I	L	■	■	■
A	F	L	O	A	T	■	H	A	I	R	■	E	T	O
L	I	M	N	■	U	N	A	T	T	E	N	D	E	D
A	L	O	E	■	R	E	N	O	■	T	E	N	S	E
R	E	N	T	■	E	D	A	M	■	Y	E	A	T	S

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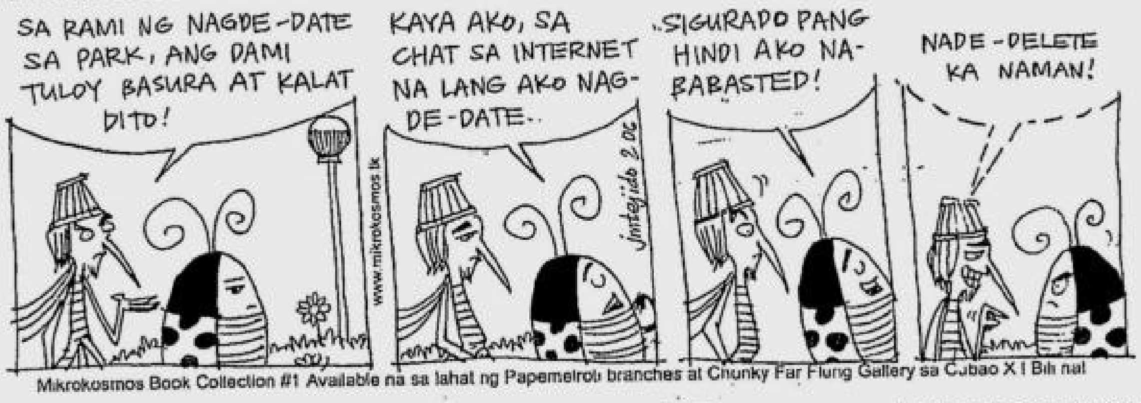
2/10/06

MIKROKOSMOS

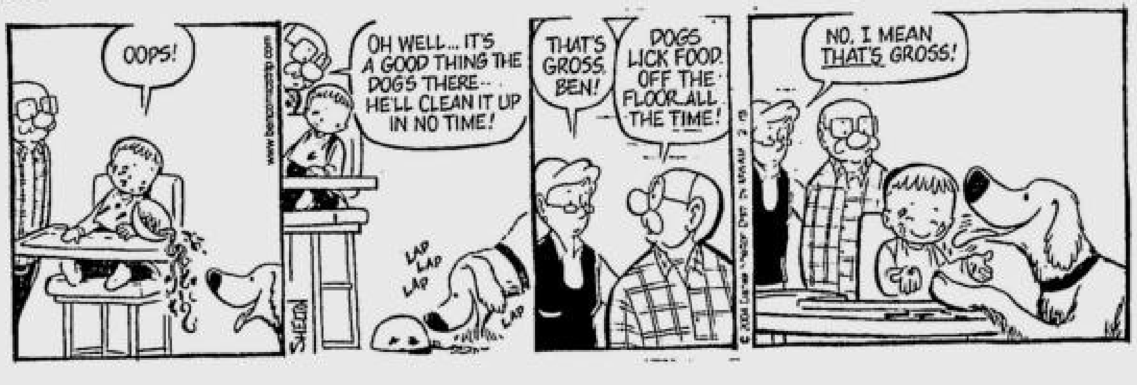
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SA RAMI NG NAGDE-DATE SA PARK, ANG DAMI TULOY BASURA AT KALAT DITO!
KAYA AKO, SA CHAT SA INTERNET NA LANG AKO NAG-DE-DATE.
SIGURADO PANG HINDI AKO NA-BABASTED!
NADE-DELETE KA NAMAN!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

Mikrokosmos Book Collection #1 Available na sa lahat ng Papemelroti branches at Chunky Far Flung Gallery sa Cubao X I Bili na!

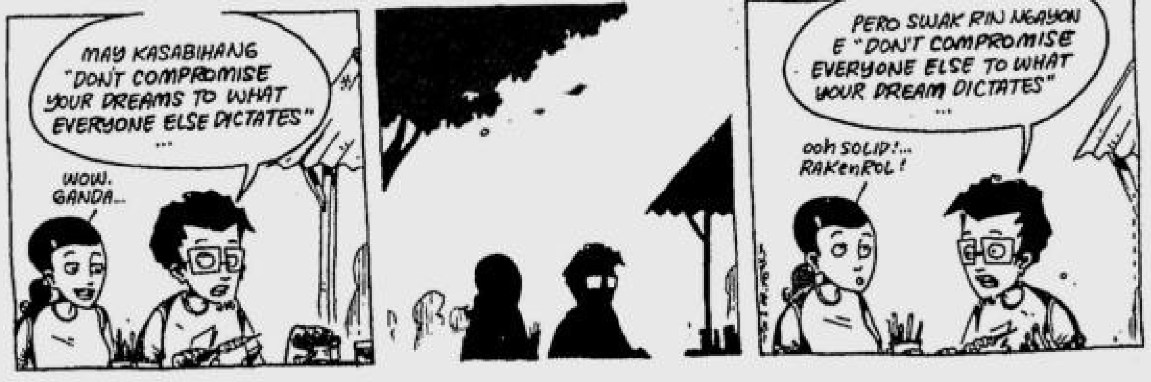
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OOPS!
OH WELL... IT'S A GOOD THING THE DOGS THERE... HE'LL CLEAN IT UP IN NO TIME!
LAP LAP LAP
THAT'S GROSS, BEN!
DOGS LICK FOOD OFF THE FLOOR ALL THE TIME!
NO, I MEAN THAT'S GROSS!

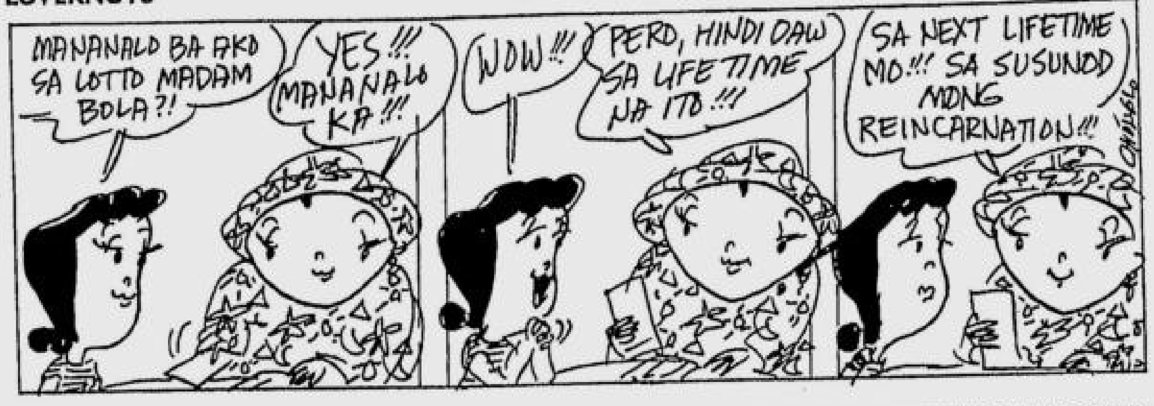
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


MAY KASABIHANG "DON'T COMPROMISE YOUR DREAMS TO WHAT EVERYONE ELSE DICTATES"...
WOW. GANDA...
PERO SWAK RIN NGAYON E "DON'T COMPROMISE EVERYONE ELSE TO WHAT YOUR DREAM DICTATES"...
ooh SOLID!... RAKenROL!

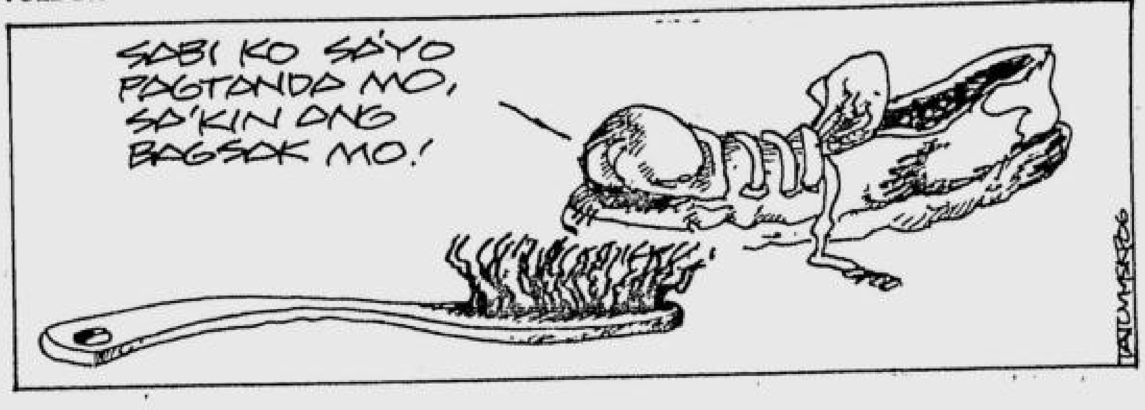
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MANANALO BA AKO SA LOTTO MADAM BOLA?!
YES!!! MANANALO KA!!!
WOW!!!
PERO, HINDI DAW SA LIFETIME NA ITO!!!
SA NEXT LIFETIME MO!!! SA SUSUNOD MONG REINCARNATION!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SABI KO SA'YO PAGTANDA MO, SA'KIN ANG BAGSAK MO!

Editor Emmie G. Velarde
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

PEOPLE have always made wrong assumptions because of her "horrible" Tagalog, the Singapore-based actress laments.

A serious Donita Rose

By the Inquirer Entertainment Staff
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

I'VE ALWAYS LONGED for people to take me more seriously. Unfortunately, they associate Donita Rose with being a horrible *Tagalog* speaker. They assume that I cannot really act."

This was the lament of the Singapore-based actress and MTV VJ, who visited the INQUIRER recently. She is in Manila working on the international film, "Seed of Contention." She still speaks in English here, but hopes to prove that inability to speak fluent *Tagalog* "does not make me less of an actress."

"Seed of Contention" is being produced and directed by Donita's friend, Ana Marie Laperal, for the Hollywood-based outfit, Leaudouce Films. The movie is a love story based on the life of Laperal's maternal grandmother and is set during World War II.

Whose idea was it to make this movie?

Ana: Mine, I suppose. I wrote the script in 2000, before I met Donita. I mentioned it to her in passing because I had no immediate plans for it.

You said yes before reading the script?

Donita: Yeah. We didn't discuss details. I just said, "Yes, I'll be in that film," thinking I was doing her a favor. (Laughter)

So you like the role.

Ana: It is a great part. I don't think Donita has done anything like this.

Donita: I'll be playing Emma. I get to speak in English. The first international film I did was "Legacy." I was a lot more confident at the time but I was a little intimidated by my co-actors. I felt I could've done a better job. Being that I'm not a teenager anymore and a lot more mature, I feel that what you're going to see is the real me.

How are you preparing for the role?

Donita: I've read the script twice. My main concern is not so much the difficult scenes but the fact that I have to speak with a slight Spanish accent.

Ana: Which, if I may add, is not absolutely intrinsic to her part. But I love the fact that she's going to give it a shot—just goes to show what a dedicated actor she is.

Donita: I'll be dying my hair black and I'm working hard at losing weight. I'm working out six days a week at the gym.

Didn't you ever take *Tagalog* lessons?

Donita: No. When I was growing up, I could speak *Panggalatok* fluently. I felt that if I could speak that dialect fluently, why should *Tagalog* be a challenge? When I was growing up, all the members of my family spoke *Panggalatok* and English. My mom used to be a schoolteacher. No one ever spoke *Tagalog*. I started speaking *Tagalog* only when I came to Manila.

How different is working on an international film like "Legacy" from working on a local movie?

Donita: The immediate differences that I noticed were of course that everybody is speaking in English and that there's live sound. I think we use live sound now in many local films, but back then it was those cameras that when you roll *walang* sound *masyado*. In terms of work ethics, I can say that Filipinos are as hard working as Americans.

Now, if you want to talk about this film as opposed to this woman (Laperal), she's very particular, very detailed in everything she does. You should see her marked script.

Ana: I have every shot pretty laid out—coverage, camera angles and such.

Donita: We'll be flying in actors from Singapore, Los Angeles, crew from Italy and France.

Will you be having local actors?

Ana: Certainly. In fact, 90 percent of our crew is local. Our camera team, they're world-class. I have no hesitation in saying that. Our camera operator's last film was "Munich," directed by Steven Spielberg. I was telling Donita, "From Spielberg to me. What's wrong with that picture?" For a first-time feature director like me, it's very important to be surrounded by people who are experienced.

Donita: What I love about Anna is that she could have filmed this movie in Guam, Canada or anywhere else where she could get tax breaks but she chose to do it here. Whenever I get asked what my future dreams and goals are, I'd always say I would really like to be in more international films, not just for myself, of course its something that's very prestigious, but just to let people know that hey, we've got world-class talents here in the Philippines.

How do you describe Emma, your character?

Donita: She's nothing like what I am in real life. Emma's character is strong. She comes across as the *kontrabida* [but] she's just misunderstood.

Ana: She's a rather stern and severe character. Of course, she will undergo a transformation. I especially like Emma. In fact, she utters some of my favorite lines in the entire script.

How have you matured as an actress?

Donita: I'd have to say that I've been through so much, being 31 now. If I wasn't pressured to do anything right now and you tell me, "Let's see if you could cry," that would be really easy. I could just internalize, think of something and then cry. But sometimes there are other factors involved, like the way we film here—sometimes your crying scene is scheduled at 5:30 a.m. and you need to hurry before the sun comes up. You're tired, you're stomach is sour, and then the director shouts, "Quiet on the set!" You go, "Shucks, everybody is look-

A SERIOUS/ A2-2

TAKE FIVE

'I'm 31 now and have gone through a lot; I'm better prepared for acting'

Industry divided over MMFF proceeds

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"IT'S GETTING COMPLICATED," replied Leo Martinez, director general of the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP), when asked for an update on the reallocation of the Metro Manila Film Festival 2005 proceeds. "Procedure wasn't followed."

Last year's MMFF Sharing Scheme

INDUSTRY/ A2-2

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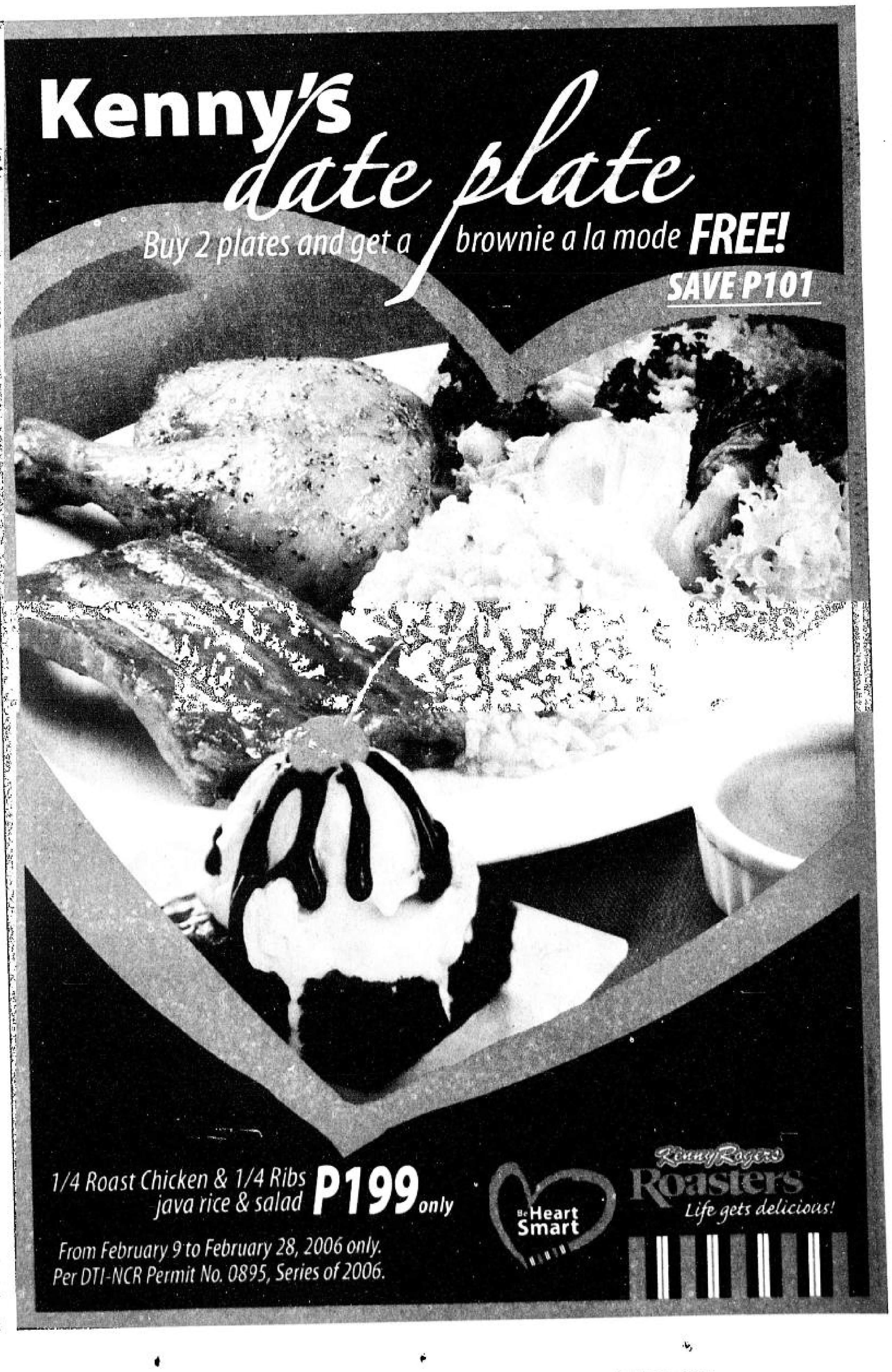
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Industry divided

From page A2-1

divided the proceeds of the film fest among the FAP, the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund), the Motion Picture Anti-Film Piracy Council (30 percent each) and the Presidential Social Fund (10 percent).

The new scheme reduced the shares of the FAP and the Anti-Piracy Council and introduced two new beneficiaries—the Optical Media Board and the Film Development Council of the Philippines, which will receive 20 percent each.

These changes were contained in a memorandum dated Jan. 24, drafted and signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. The memo indicated that Ermita was granting the "request" of Vicente del Rosario, who was said to have initiated the move as presidential consultant for the entertainment industry.

'Unethical'

Martinez told INQUIRER Entertainment, "Del Rosario didn't consult the FAP. He didn't even inform Bayani Fernando [Metro Manila Development Authority and overall festival chair]."

Fernando confirmed this on Wednesday. "We haven't received formal communication on this matter from Malacañang," he said.

As soon as he receives one, Fernando said, he will present it to the MMFF executive committee for deliberation. "If we need to make adjustments, we can request Malacañang to reconsider."

Martinez said he earlier discussed the issue with Ermita, who suggested that he write a "strongly worded letter" to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Thus, in a letter dated Feb. 2, Martinez complained: "[Del Rosario] "has no authority to create new recipients ... [like] the FDCP and the OMB ... [which] never helped in the operations of the MMFF. The proceeds this year have improved. Yet Mr. Del Rosario would take it away from those who worked hard for it [and] give it to onlookers. This is not just unethical; it is how a bully works."

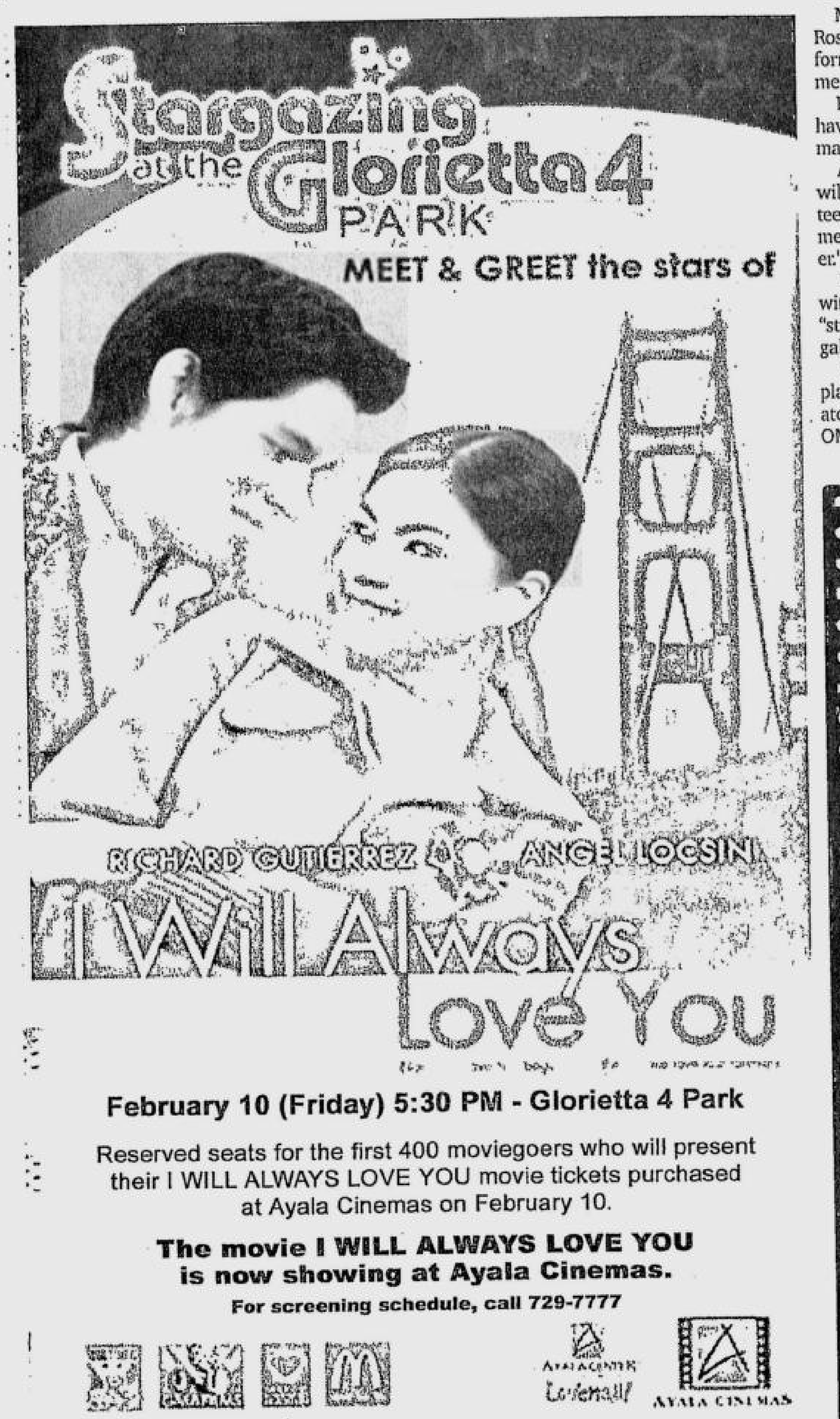
According to a published report, the festival grosses increased from P328 million in 2003 and P300.07 million in 2004 to P353 million in 2005. The MMFF funds—from the 30 percent amusement tax collected by local government units throughout the two-week festival—are usually turned over to the beneficiaries in three installments throughout the year, explained Martinez.

He noted: "The PSF's share last year was around P7.5 million. That's only 10 percent of the total MMFF funds [roughly P75 million]. People are eager to get their hands on the MMFF funds because the 2005 grosses have increased."

United

Martinez said that his letter to the President was signed by several industry leaders. "We are united on this issue."

In the letter, "we," referred to "[the] FAP, the Anti-Piracy Council, together with the officers and members of the various guilds of producers, theater owners, production, artistic and technical workers that make up the Philippine film industry."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Tasty cloth
salt to inju
boob-tub

Host: Why do you think
icon?
Guest: Because she ch
personality. Her clothes a
for her!
(Ay, costume-made!)

Host: What about (o
celebrity)—what makes
such a standout?
Guest: Well, she has n
money, so *maganda*
clothes *niya, kasi mamaha*
(Does it follow?)

***

Host: And (t
star)—what makes her
special?
Guest: her c
sense—that's why her clo
are very tasty!
(Yum, yum!)

Host: Anybody else yo
icon?
Guest: Oh, definitely (n
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(The epete to me?—Oh

Host: Will you accept
friend for all the bad thing
Guest: No, her apolog
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Host: What time do you
Guest: At early at 8 a.m.
(*Atat na atat* sa at!)

Host: Will prices be inc
is implemented?
Guest: No, stocks of goo
need for retailers to take a
(When would retailers
the situation?)

Host: Do you feel fulfill
Guest: Oh, yes! After al
ning bodies, *nakuha ko na*
(*Mabigat yon, ha?*)

***

Host: How are you e
your new job harder?
Guest: Oh, it very more
(*That* hard, huh?)

***

Host: Why are we getti
And, why are they more d
Guest: It's the lack of ra
(Fartrucks to you, firetr

***

Host: Why do you like
ends?
Guest: To get away from
(What do you do for the

Mr. & Ms.'s February

THE PHOTO says it all on
sue of Mr. & Ms. magazine
cager beau, **Rich Alvarez**,
about their love story, p
about each other.

Other articles in the Fe
aspects of *l'amour*: Get so
Valentine's Day without h
formed about how intima
fitness regimen for couple
flexible and lively, in and
how to find your soulma
love spells.

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ing husky heroes strande
and the one man who sto
nine friends home. **Paul**
Bruce Greenwood star
courage.

'McBride' on Hallmar

JOHN Larroquette pla
"McBride," three features
on the Hallmark channel
attorney who has the u
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In "McBride: Murder P
McBride volunteers to de
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On Feb. 12, 9 p.m., "T
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victim!

And, on Feb. 19, 9 p.m
lovely female escort is acc
and it looks like she's gui
her defense!

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IN THE Dulaang UP canta
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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

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and not enough fartrucks!
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the hustle of the city!
bustle?)

ssue

he cover of the February is-
popular singer **Kyla** and her
are very much in love. Read
ans, dreams and thoughts

bruary issue celebrate other
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y gives out energy. Learn a
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makers, as interviewed by
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way with them.

of icy, stormy Antarctica,
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at the bottom of the world,
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Walker, Jason Biggs and
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Midnight" (aired Feb. 5),
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Chameleon Murder" dra-
murder case, and McBride's
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in "It's Murder, Madam," a
sed of killing her employer,
y—until McBride rushes to

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anet Basco, Ivy Violan and
ne concert, "Hearts in Sea-
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A serious . . .

From page A2-1

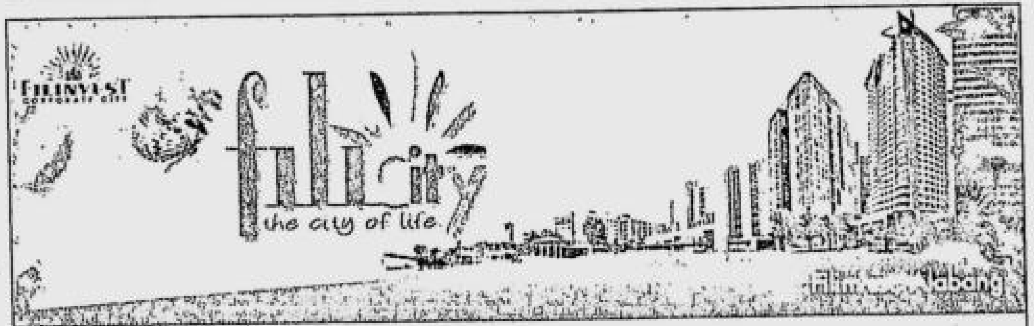
ing at me." But I'd say that I'm a little more prepared now, especially because I've had more experiences to help me.

Are you a hands-on mom to JP (Joshua Patrick)?

JP is one and a half years old now. I really wouldn't mind having one baby after the other, but, of course, I would like to work as well. I won't take full credit of taking care of JP because he does have a *yaya*.

How is Eric (Villarama) as dad to JP?

Daddy is breadwinner so he's not home every day. But what's really amazing is that, JP is much more attached to his father than to me. What I really like about that, though, is that the security comes from the father. That's something I found out recently that was important for kids to have.



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Super Bowl Of China • Taco Bell • Teriyaki Boy

Gateway

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
Gateway CINEPLEX*10
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

THE NEW WORLD 2:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20	FUN WITH DICK & JANE 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	FIREWALL 11:50 / 2:20 / 4:50 / 7:20 / 9:50	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU 2:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50	MUNICH 11:50 / 3:00 / 6:10 / 9:20	WALK THE LINE 6:40 / 9:30 ZATHURA 1:00 / 3:10	FIREWALL 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
UNDERWORLD 2 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 1:30 / 3:50	DERAILED 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40 SAW 2 5:50 / 7:50 / 9:50	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

Ali MALL CINEMAS

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU 12:15 R4 / 1:20 / 3:45 / 6:10 / 8:35	FIREWALL 12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15	THE NEW WORLD 12:05 / 2:55 / 5:45 / 8:35
BLOODRAYNE 12:15 / 2:25 / 4:35 / 6:45 / 8:55	FUN WITH DICK & JANE 12:15 R2 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

LOG ON TO WWW.ARANETACENTER.NET FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

ARANETA COLISEUM

FOREVER AFTER - REGINE & OGIE IN CONCERT
FEBRUARY 10 & 11, FRI & SAT. 8 pm

MY MEGA VALENTINE - SHARON CUNETA IN CONCERT
FEBRUARY 12, SUNDAY. 8 pm

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 MUNICH • THX
12:45 3:50 6:55 10:00
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 NEW WORLD
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
4 BLOODRAYNE
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
5 FUN with DICK and JANE
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
6 FIREWALL
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 DERAILED
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
8 UNDERWORLD 2
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
9 SAW 2
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
10 WALK THE LINE
1:40 4:20 7:00 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 FIREWALL 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50
2 SAW 2
12:00 1:40 3.20 5:00 6:40 8.20 10:00
3 BLOODRAYNE 12:20 2:30 4:40
UNDERWORLD 2 7:00 9:30
4 NEW WORLD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
5 FUN with DICK and JANE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
7 MUNICH
12:30 3:35 6:40 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 FUN with DICK and JANE
11:45 2:05 4.25 6:45 9:05
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
3 FIREWALL
12.10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30
4 NEW WORLD
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
5 UNDERWORLD 2
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00
6 MUNICH
11:10 2:30 5:50 9:10
7 SAW 2
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
8 WALK THE LINE
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

NOVALICHES 936-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 SAW 2
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 FIREWALL
5 WALK THE LINE
6 FUN with DICK and JANE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 FIREWALL
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 NEW WORLD
2 FIREWALL
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 FUN with DICK and JANE

Robinsons
MOVIEWORLD
CAn be YOUR
CINEMA!

Open for advance screenings, product launches, concerts, school events and other organizational functions. *PLUS! Exclusive screenings of blockbuster films.*

For interested parties, you may contact Marketing Services Department 687-7945 to 47 • 633-4446 • 636-2894 locals 14/15

THX CERTIFIED CINEMA
CINEMAS

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 FIREWALL
3 FUN with DICK and JANE
4 WALK THE LINE
5 UNDERWORLD 2

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 LITTLE MANHATTAN
3 HALF LIGHT
4 THE MAID
5 FUN with DICK and JANE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 FIREWALL
2 HALF LIGHT
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 FUN with DICK and JANE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 FIREWALL
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 SAW 2
4 FUN with DICK and JANE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 SAW 2
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 FIREWALL
5 FUN with DICK and JANE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 ZATHURA
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN with DICK and JANE
4 FIREWALL
5 SAW 2
6 UNDERWORLD 2

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 FUN with DICK and JANE
2 RUMOR HAS IT
3 DERAILED
4 HALF LIGHT
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 THE MAID

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 FUN with DICK and JANE
3 LITTLE MANHATTAN
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 THE MAID
6 HALF LIGHT

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Call them aging or aspiring—but Paul, Mick, JD and Kelly rock

Hearing 'Hello, Ruben' emanating from Jagger's famous lips will always be a highlight in his life as a reporter, our man in Hollywood says

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—NANCY ABELEDA e-mailed us a report on the INXS' recent concert at the Gibson Amphitheatre (formerly Universal Amphitheatre) in Universal City, California. Nancy, who was an A&R and record marketing exec in Manila before moving to LA, gave her opinion on how **JD Fortune**, who won the "Rockstar: INxs" contest over Fil-Aussie **MiG Ayesa** and **Marty Casey**, fared with his new band:

"INXS is back! JD did a fantastic job even though *paos siya*... although there were a few times when I thought **Michael Hutchence** would have sung a song, for instance, 'Devil Inside,' more sexily. But JD is different. He can only get better and more confident. The audience was on its feet from beginning to end. I kept hearing 'awesome' left and right."

Of Marty, who has been fronting the INXS tour with his band, the Lovehammers, Nancy was less enthusiastic: "*Nayayabangan ako. Walang masyadong* crowd reaction."

Los Angeles Times' **Geoff Boucher**, who watched the show in Oakland, also praised JD: "The kid (JD) is... really good. And the crowd loves him. Fortune performed a high-energy set and the band behind him sounded crisp and forceful on... all the hits from the Hutchence days."

Now it can be told. In the same piece, Boucher revealed how the concept of finding a new lead singer via a TV show contest was not unanimously embraced by the Aussie band's members: "The 'crazy idea'... came from **Kirk Pengilly**, who plays sax and guitar. There were varied degrees of resistance and shock among his bandmates; the most adamant was **Andrew Farriss** (one of the band's three Farriss brothers along with Tim and drummer Jon). The beefy keyboardist felt the venture was too risky and too close to 'American Idol—that damned show that's ruining music.'"

Boucher also bared that Andrew, when he finally agreed, "was intent on replacing Hutchence with a female singer—to separate the vocal present from the vocal past." Boucher added: "Many... who [followed the search] assumed Australian singer MiG Ayesa would win for his homeland ties."

The writer also gave us an idea of how JD is doing offstage: "On the tour bus ride from San Francisco to Oakland, Fortune, looking bleary, rolled himself into one of the coffin-sized bunks on the floor of the luxury coach. While the rest of the guys chatted and looked out on San Francisco Bay, the newest member snoozed and tried to recover from a head cold."

MICK Jagger and Keith Richards at the Super Bowl. Was that guitar plugged to an amp? AFP

Sir Paul's 64

- **Paul McCartney**, up for an Album of the Year in last Wednesday's Grammy Awards, marks an interesting coincidence as he turns 64 on June 18 this year: his number of Grammy nominations so far also number 64.

Paul recently told the LA Times of his song "When I'm Sixty-four": "If I were to write it now, I'd probably call it 'When I'm 94.' " We wrote about the knighted rocker's last concert in LA's Staples Center. Watching him, "senior citizen" didn't even cross our mind. He could be 46, not 64.

Stones at Super Bowl

Still on sexagenarian rockers—we never thought the day would come when we would describe our idols as such!—the Rolling Stones were, as the whole world knows, the half-time act at last Sunday's Super Bowl game. Here's what **Dayn Perry** of FOXSports.com thought of Sir (yes, he's also a knighted one) **Mick Jagger**, 62; **Keith Richards**, 62; **Charlie Watts**, 64; and **Ron Woods**, the group's "baby" at 58:

"If Keith Richards [was] actually playing that guitar, then I'm Frodo. He stopped 'playing' to cough at least five times. The 'guitarist emeritus,' I'm guessing, is not actually plugged into an amp. Mick Jagger dances as he always does... like he's waving flares to direct a plane onto the tarmac while taking a Tae-Bo class."

Dayn, Dayn, Dayn—you have no respect for the elderly! Any 62-year-old like Mick whose waist size is still 28, weighs only 140 pounds and struts the equivalent of 12 miles in a typical stadium show has my respect. And we'll say this again—hearing "Hello, Ruben" emanating from those famous lips, in that raspy, British accented voice during our interview with him in 2004 will always be one of the highlights of our reporter's life.

'AI' deleted

And finally, Time magazine reports that the bit about **Kelly Clarkson** winning this contest called "American Idol" has been deleted from her official bio. What did **Andrew Farris** say again about "American Idol"?

Kelly has successfully broken away from the "AI" champ image and established herself as pop artist acclaimed by music critics.

But why diss "AI"? Many viewers around the world consider it their guilty pleasure.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

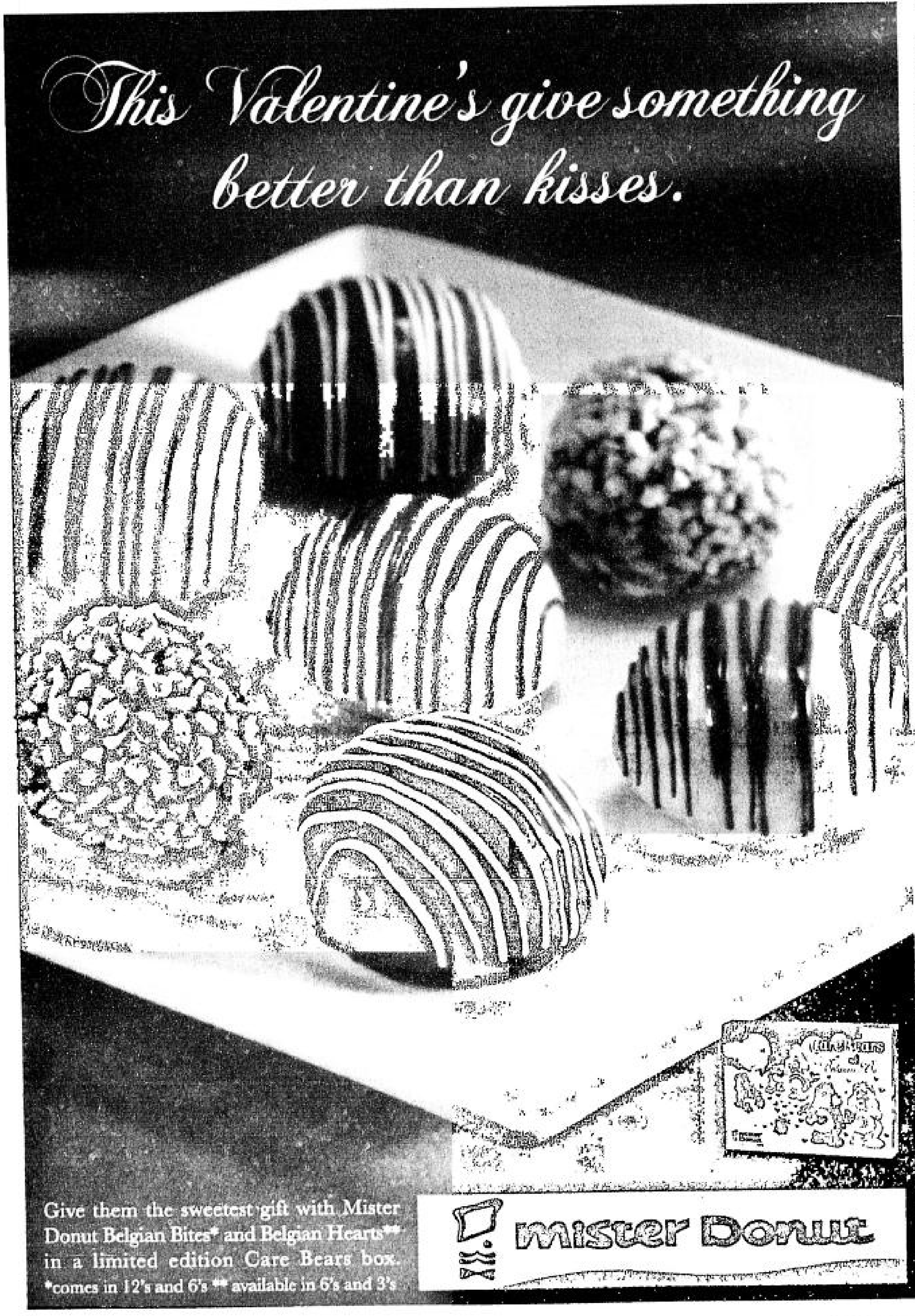
INXS with new front man JD Fortune

All the movies you want to see on the big screen
NOW SHOWING at the Star Group of Malls

starmall EDSA–SHAW
Tel No 726 6150
3: Blood Rayne
4: I Will Always Love You
5: Fun with Dick & Jane

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850 4285
1: Tukso
2: Fun with Dick & Jane
3: I Will Always Love You
4: Blood Rayne

Everyday Family Day at StarMalls !
BAMBOO LIVE IN CONCERT AT METROPOLIS ALABANG ON FEB 14, 7PM
KITCHIE NADAL VALENTINE CONCERT AT STARMALL EDSA ON FEB 14, 7PM
BASIL VALDEZ & AGOT ISIDRO VALENTINE SHOW AT STARMALL LAS PIÑAS ON FEB 14, 7PM



Give them the sweetest gift with Mister Donut Belgian Bites* and Belgian Hearts** in a limited edition Care Bears box.
*comes in 12's and 6's ** available in 6's and 3's

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

EVERYTHING HE LOVES IS ABOUT TO BE USED AGAINST HIM.
HARRISON FORD
PAUL BETTANY
FIREWALL
THEY'RE ALREADY INSIDE.
NOW SHOWING

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

MUNICH R13 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00	FUN WITH DICK AND JANE PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15	NEW WORLD PG13 1:20,4:20,7:20,10:20
DERAILED R13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	WALK THE LINE PG13 1:20,4:10,7:00,9:50	FIRE WALL PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE: FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1442*

A VALENTINE with
ROCKIN' REVIVAL
and Sabor Latino
POWER PLANT MALL

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer ent name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

'FOREVER AFTER'
Regine Velasquez, Ogie Alcasid, Rico J. Puno and Aiai de las Alas star in a Valentine musical comedy titled "Forever After," which goes onstage today and tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum. The show is written by Ricky Lee and directed by Rowell Santiago. More Valentine presentations to choose from on page A3/2.

Randy Santiago: Willie should not quit

RANDY SANTIAGO says his close friend Willie Revillame should not quit TV hosting.

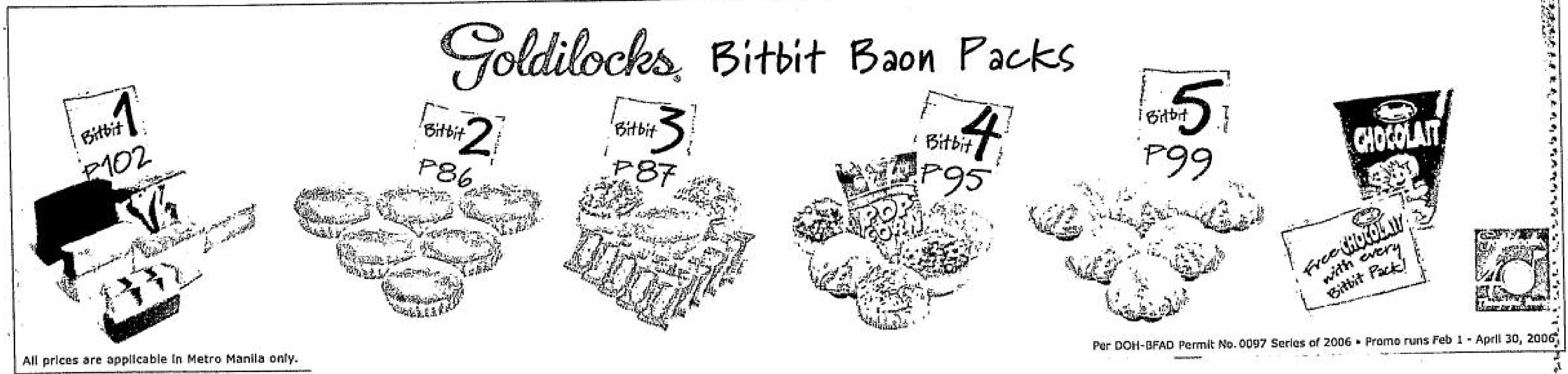
Revillame, host of "Wowowee," said on "The Buzz" last Sunday that he did not want to do a show anymore.

"That's very Willie," said Randy of his pal's asking for time off, to console relatives of the victims of the stampede at the PhilSports Arena on Saturday. "He always wants to reach out and help."

Randy turned the press con for his comeback album—"Beinte Na, Hihirit Pa"—on Tuesday into a forum to proclaim unwavering support for Willie, once a member of his "*hawi* boys," whose job was to keep the fans from grabbing his trademark shades. *Nini Valera*

What's up at WESTGATE
Featuring
Ecole de Ballet Manille
February 11, 7pm
Venue: Cul de Sac
Romance & Rhythm
February 14, 7pm
Venue: Cul de Sac
For inquiries: 8503517
FILINVEST

Goldilocks Bitbit BAON Packs
Sana recess na!



All prices are applicable in Metro Manila only.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0097 Series of 2006 • Promo runs Feb 1 - April 30, 2006

"*Bitbit*": A lyrical word inspires a winning campaign

As Goldilocks celebrates 40 thoughtful years this 2006, it is interesting to examine the origins of one their most endearing promotions. During the turn of the millennium, the country's number one bakeshop was conducting its regular market research agenda. This involves in-depth consumer analysis, purchase trend evaluation, and investigating the "moments-of-truth" of their customers. In the midst of various focus group discussions, it was revealed that "*pasalubong*" was an indelible image and memory that consumers associated with Goldilocks. This meant that a typical Filipino subscribed to the value of thoughtfulness, or being "*maalalahanin*", and would evoke the same sentiment when buying Goldilocks products. This validated the company's core principles, and gave rise to an innovative concept that exemplified this special relationship that buyers have with their loved ones.

Anchored on the idea that thoughtfulness in Filipinos is best expressed in "*pasalubong*" and "*padala*", Goldilocks launched its pioneering "*Bitbit*" campaign with the original tagline "How thoughtful. How Goldilocks". Basically, it packaged all-time favorite Goldilocks products like *mamon*, *ensaymada*, and cake slices as take-out bundles called "*bitbit* packs", with very affordable prices.

Targeting the adolescent market, an initial two-month long promo at the start of the school year surpassed all expectations. "We knew we had a hit with *bitbit*", said Goldilocks Marketing Director Pinky Yee. "But still, we were pleasantly surprised at how enthusiastic the market responded", she added. The enormous success of the promo resulted in a re-launch later that year. As customer feedback grew more and more positive, Goldilocks decided to offer the *bitbit* packs all year round.

"I believe the main strength of *bitbit* is its versatility", Ms. Yee explained. "It benefits from the fact that Filipinos never like to come to an occasion or gathering empty-handed", she pointed out. "At the same time, it's perfect for *padala* and *pabaon*. During the school rush, we usually include a free drink to go with every *bitbit* pack. This makes it convenient for busy moms to ensure that their kids have a complete and delightful snack during break time", Ms. Yee further said.

Up to April 30, 2006, all Goldilocks customers will get a free 120 ml. Magnolia Chocolait for any one of five "*Bitbit Baon* packs" that they purchase. The *baon* packs include all-time Goldilocks favorites, grouped into a combination of cake slices, cinnamon rolls, fluffy *mamon*, *polvoron*, peanut rolls, rainbow chums, and *ensaymadas*. These are all affordably priced, and are sure to satisfy children of all ages.

SM CINEMA

movietime

SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-9009

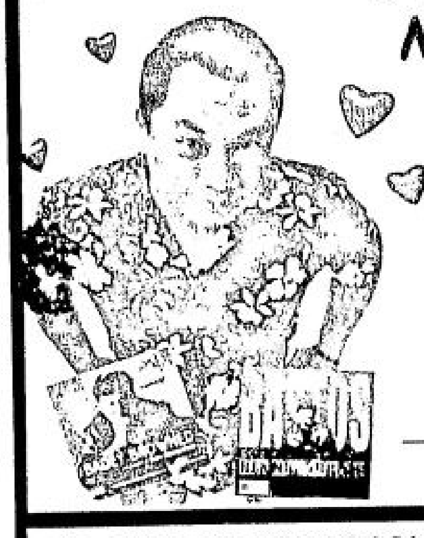
CENTER Stage

LIVE-LARGE

831-1000 loc. 2671, 2673, 2682, 2681

BIG MOVIES • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

CENTER Stage COMEDY FESTIVAL



My Funny Valentine!

The Comedy of REX NAVARETTE

Premiere Fil-Am funny man
Is back to give you loads of laughs!

North Edsa • February 17 Megamall • February 24
Southmall • February 18 Baguio • February 25

SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 10
February 14, 2006, 8:00 PM

Free LOWER BOX TICKET for every purchase of 1(one) Rex CD + med. Popcorn & Drink! P 500.00
Free UPPER BOX TICKET for every purchase of 1 (one) med. Popcorn & Drink for P 300.00

Available at the following SM Cinema Snackbars:
Megamall, North Edsa, Southmall, and Baguio

WE CHEERED FOR PACQUIAO, NOW LET US CHEER FOR VILORIA!

BIG SCREEN! NO COMMERCIALS!

LIVE-LARGE SM CINEMA

BRIAN VILORIA
"THE HAWAIIAN PUNCH"
WBC LIGHT FLYWEIGHT CHAMPION
VS
JOSE AGUIRRE
"EL JAGUAR"

February 19, Sunday
8:00 a.m.
LIVE VIA SATELLITE
Las Vegas USA

REAL WARRIORS

Watch the Hawaiian Punch defend his WBC title at the following SM cinemas:

Fairview 4176811 • North Edsa 9244274 • Southmall 8066888 • Megamall 6331901
Manila 5239240 Pampanga (045) 9637681 Cebu (032) 2313876 • Davao (082) 2976998
Iloilo (033) 3209422 Sta. Mesa 7161416 San Lazaro 7862488 • Valenzuela 2933917
Molino (046) 5026487 • Baguio (074) 6197838-39-41

movietime.

RED CARPET PREMIERE

CLOSE TO YOU
SM Megamall • Cinema 3 & 4
February 14

FEARLESS
SM Manila • Cinema 6
February 23

SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Close to you

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-6976
FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
11:45 FS / 12:15 MF / 02:25 / 04:35 / 06:45
08:20 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:35 END
FIREWALL
11:30FS / 11:55 MF / 02:10
03:55 LFS / 04:25 LMF / 06:10 END
MEGAMALL
DERAILED
10:15 FS / 11:40 MF / 02:00
03:50 LFS / 04:20 LMF / 06:10 END

CEBU (032) 231-3870
FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
11:20 FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30 / 07:30
09:05 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:05 END
FIREWALL
11:00 FS / 11:10 MF / 01:14 / 03:18 / 05:22 / 07:26
09:10 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:20 END
DERAILED
11:20 FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30
03:13 LFS / 03:30 LMF / 05:15 END

movietime

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 DERAILED
2 FIREWALL
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
6 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006
7 SAW 2
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9 NEW WORLD
10 UNDERWORLD 2
11 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12 MUNICH

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 FIREWALL
2 MUNICH
3 NEW WORLD
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 SAW 2
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 ZATHURA
9 BLOODRAYNE
10 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 FIREWALL
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 NEW WORLD

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FIREWALL
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 MUNICH
2 BLOODRAYNE
3 SAW 2
4 FIREWALL
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006
7 NEW WORLD
8 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
9 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
10 UNDERWORLD 2
11 ZATHURA
12 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006
2 NEW WORLD
3 FIREWALL
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 MUNICH
6 SAW 2
7 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
8 UNDERWORLD 2
9 BLOODRAYNE
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 NEW WORLD
2 FIREWALL
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 MUNICH
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 SAW 2
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 BLOODRAYNE
7 FIREWALL
8 NEW WORLD

SM CITY MANILA
1 MUNICH
2 BLOODRAYNE
3 FIREWALL
4 NEW WORLD
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 SAW 2
7 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006
8 ZATHURA
9 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
10 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
11 UNDERWORLD 2
12 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 FIREWALL
2 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 SAW 2
5 NEW WORLD
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 FIREWALL
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 SAW 2
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 LITTLE MANHATTAN
4 UNDERWORLD 2

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 FIREWALL
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY BACOOR
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 BLOODRAYNE
3 NEW WORLD
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 FIREWALL
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
7 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
8 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006

SM CITY MARILAO
1 SAW 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 FIREWALL

SM CITY LUCENA
1 ZATHURA
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 RUMORHAS IT
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 SAW 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 LITTLE MANHATTAN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 FIREWALL
3 DOMINO
4 DERAILED
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 SAW 2
7 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
8 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LITTLE MANHATTAN
2 RESERVED
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 ZATHURA
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
7 RESERVED
8 THE MAID

SM CITY DAVAO
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 ZATHURA
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 THE MAID
5 RUMOR HAS IT
6 UNDERWORLD 2

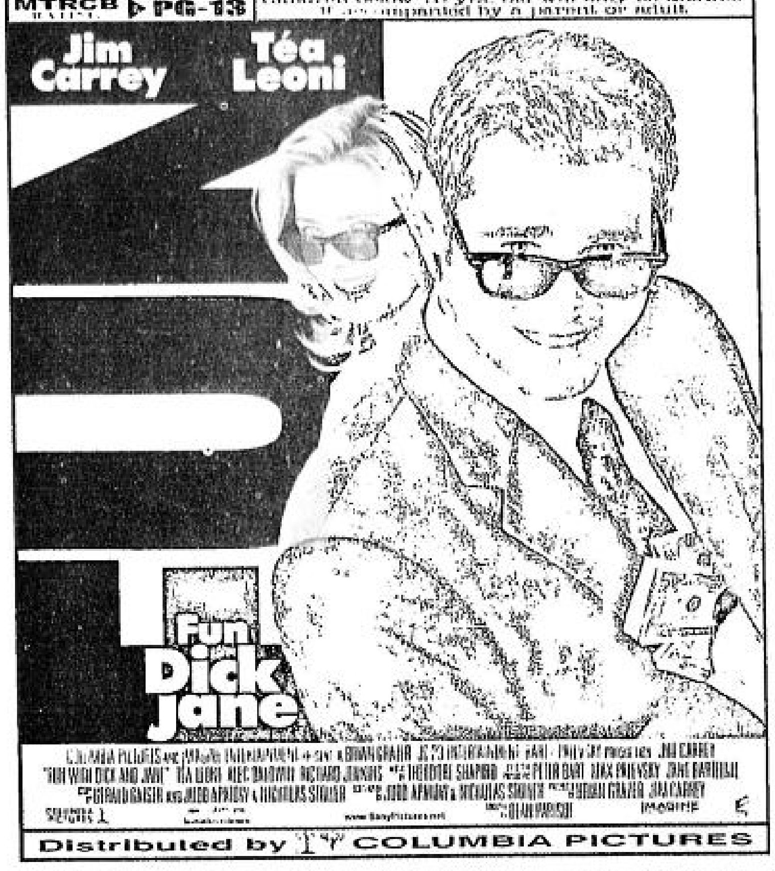
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 LITTLE MANHATTAN
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 THE MAID

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

3RD RIB-TICKLING FUN DAY

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



Jim Carrey
Téa Leoni
Fun with Dick and Jane

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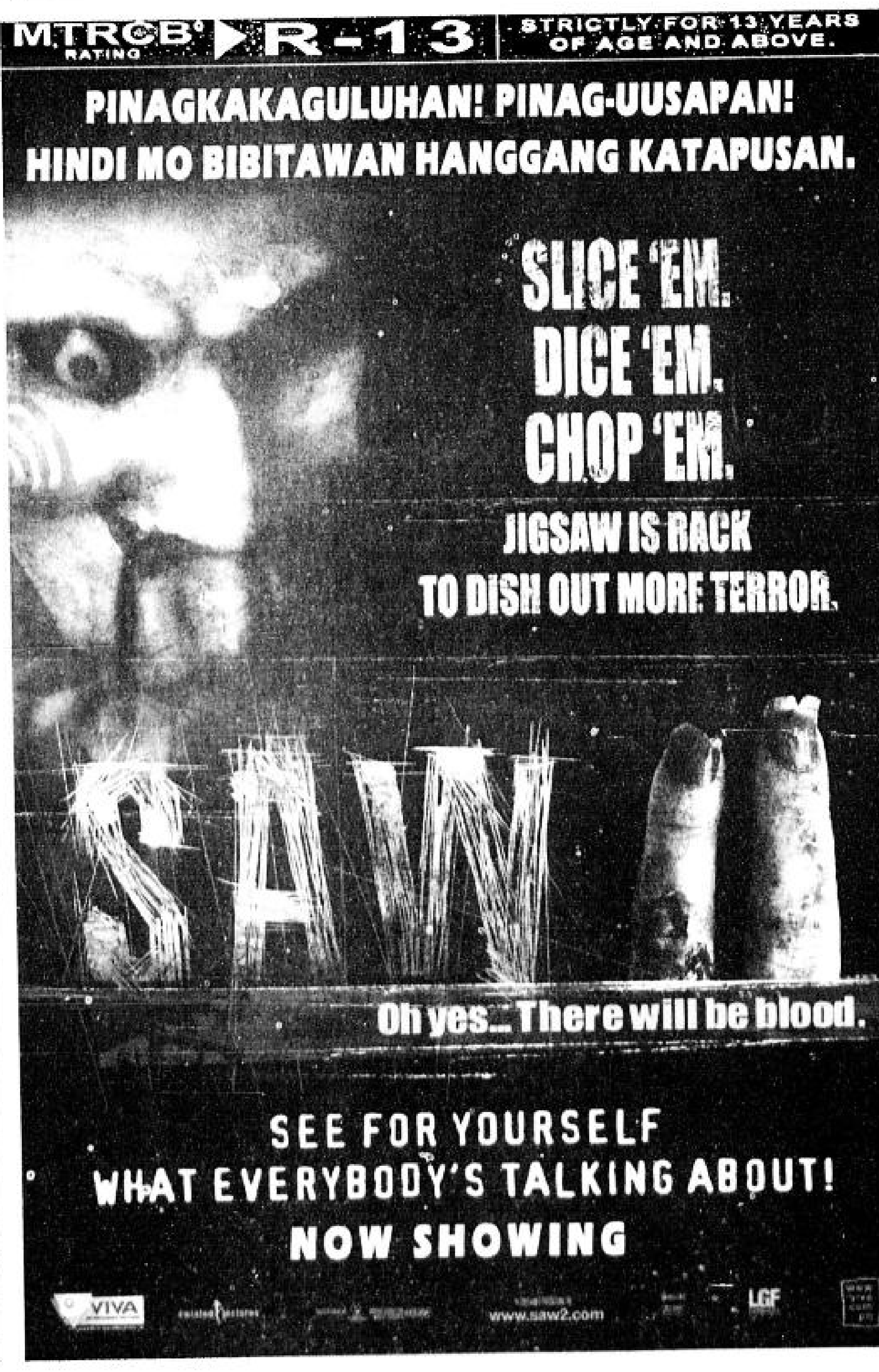
CHARLIZE THERON
ÆONFLUX
THE FUTURE IS FLUX
PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND LAKESHORE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation
IN THEATERS FEB. 15



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SHARON Cuneta

CHOOSE

My Mega Valentir

Star: Sharon Cuneta
Date: Feb. 12
Guests: Christopher de
Christian Bautista
Musical director: Louie
Director: Johnny Manah
Venue: Araneta Coliseun

**When you're not doing a
brate Valentine's Day?**

Very quietly. We don't like br

**What's the most romantic Va
enced?**

It's always romantic. Once
Pangilinan] asked a friend to le
He had food catered and he hir
had the lights of the Fort before
had Miel, Jessie Sincioco of Le
cook for us in our home in Lagu
year. We drove to Tagaytay Hi
log cabin. We had a great meal
night long.

What's an ideal Valentine's da

If I were to set it, it'll be girl
string quartet. Or just play a CD
to be a delicious, full-course m
always include my kids.

Who's your fantasy date?

Antonio Banderas. Brad Pitt
Jet Li. My latest crush is Ken Wa

What's the most romantic love

That's probably the hardest
Wala Nang Wakas." "Bituing
Promise" tops the list.

If you were not doing a show,

Babra Streisand—she's multi

**Why should we watch your s
expect?**

I put my heart and soul in it.
jor concert often in Manila. I do
riod. And since it's a Valentine
romantic songs by The Carp
Bacharach, among others. Plus
pher will be there. My concerts
They know they can bring the k

Love Day with Basi

Stars: Basil Valdez and Agot
Date: Feb. 14
Venue: Star Mall, Las Piñas

**When you're not doing a co
Valen**

BASIL Valdez

Bas
is bad
Ag
husba
and ev
but fa
up a fu

**What
tine's**

Bas
form i
Life b
la bar at the Goodwood Park H
performed in front of a new aud

Agot: Every Valentine's Day w
It's not what we do or eat. Great
of a foreplay. Hahaha.

What's an ideal Valentine's dat

Basil: With a dear friend in a
and, most important, a good cha

Agot: My husband and I enj
as it's a quiet and quaint place th
service is a plus!

Who is your fantasy date?

Basil: It would be nice to jam

Agot: I would love to have d
have to say anything as long as
blue eyes!

What's the most romantic love

Basil: "Ngayon at Kailanman
really meant it to be a wedding

Agot: "Maybe I'm Amazed" b

If you were not doing a show,

Basil: No one, really. I'd rathe

Agot: I'd still love to see Basi

**Why should we watch your sh
pect?**

Basil: I wouldn't want to say t
I'm sure the other artists also pr
for those in the Las Piñas area, ou

Agot: Two words: Basil Vald
share the stage with him.

Heartsongs

Stars: Jay-R and Kyla
Dates: Feb. 10 and 11
Venue: Aliw Theater, Pasay
Guest Performers: (Feb. 10)
do, (Feb. 11) Rainer Castillo,
Jonalyn Viray, Brenan Espartin

**When you don't have a concer
tine's Day?**

Jay-R: I think of creative way
mantic dinner, movies, a two-da

Kyla: I hang out with my boyf
on DVD. *Simple lang.*

**What's the most romantic Vale
enced?**

Jay-R: One time I drove to
doorstep. There was a card tha
where at a certain time. After h
mantic place, I pulled out my gi
composed especially for her and

Kyla: Last year, when I was i

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

YOUR Valentine SHOW

e

Leon, Kuh Ledesma and

)campo
an
ı

concert, how do you cele-
ıving the horrible traffic.

ıentine's Day you ever experi-
ny husband Kiko [Sen. Francis
nd him a penthouse in the Fort.
ed a string quartet. At night, we
us. [Another] time, when I just
Soufflé agreed to send people to
na. Another special one was last
hlands and stayed in a friend's
ınd sang songs from the '70s all

te?
y and quiet. I'd probably hire a
of our favorite songs. There has
al. But the ideal Valentine's will

Keanu Reeves. Adam Sandler.
tanabe.

song?
question ever. "Ikaw." "Sana'y
Walang Ningning." But "The

who would you watch?
generational.

how? What can the audience
Another thing, I don't do a ma-
n't do a major concert often, pe-
concert, it'll have some heavily
enters; Ryan Cayabyab, Burt
my idol Kuh and crush Christo-
are not exclusively for couples.
ids and the *lolos* and *lolas*.

l and Agot

Isidro

ncert, how do you celebrate
ine's Day?
il: I stay at home because traffic
ll over town.
ot: I have a quiet dinner with my
nd (Manu Sandejas) in a nice
pensive restaurant or in a cheap
bulous eatery. Or I would whip
ll-course meal for two at home.

s the most romantic Valen-
Day you ever experienced?
il: It was my first time to per-
n Singapore. I was with the Love
nd and we opened the Barbarel-
tel. It was memorable because I
ence.
ith my husband is special to me.
conversation is sexy to me—sort

e?
good restaurant with good food
t.
y trying out new places. As long
it serves scrumptious food. Great

with Barbra Streisand.
inner with Brad Pitt. He doesn't
he would let me get lost in those

song?
." [Composer] George Canseco
ong.
y Paul McCartney.

who would you watch?
go out of town.
Valdez.

ow? What can the audience ex-
at people *should* watch our show.
pared well for their concerts. But
r show is a good choice.
z. I'm just a fan who's lucky to

Bayani San Diego Jr.

ity
Mark Herras, Jennylyn Merca-
Yasmien Kurdi, (both nights)
ez

t, how do you celebrate Valen-
to surprise my loved one—a ro-
trip...
riend at home and watch movies

ntine's Day you've ever experi-
her house and left roses on her
said for her to meet me some-
ving dinner at this beautiful, ro-
to her, a song on a CD that I had
a necklace.
a concert at Music Museum, he watched me. He was wearing a shirt with my picture on it. The shirt said, "I LOVE (heart) Nanie (Kyla's nickname)."

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Jay-R: I'm a simple guy. I'd be satisfied doing anything as long as I'm with my loved one.

Kyla: I've always wanted to go to the beach with my loved one.

Who is your fantasy Valentine date?

Jay-R: Rebecca Romjin Stamos.

Kyla: Jay Hernandez of "Crazy Beautiful" or Josh Hartnet.

What is the most romantic love song?

Jay-R: "Always and Forever" by Atlantic Star

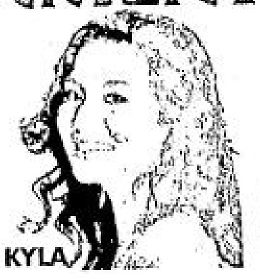
Kyla: "Last Time" by Eric Benett.

Other than you or your co-stars, who would you like to watch this Valentine's Day?

Jay-R: Regine Velazquez and Ogie Alcasid

Kyla: Regine V. and Ogie A.

Why should we watch your show? What can the audience expect?



KYLA

Jay-R: It's a fresh and young show—everyone is under 25. It's not going to be filled with just slow love songs. We want our audience to have a good time dancing. That's what concerts are all about.

Kyla: Jay-R said it all!

Marinel R. Cruz

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1 FUN WITH DICK & JANE
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
PG-13

2 FIREWALL
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

3 MUNICH
1:05, 4:20, 7:40, 10:50
R-13

4 NEW WORLD
11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00
PG-13

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 DERAILED
MTRCB R-13
12.30, 2.50, 5:10

2 FIREWALL
MTRCB PG-13
12 00 2 30 5 00 7 30 10 00

3 MUNICH
MTRCB R-13
11:15, 2.20, 5.25, 9.00

4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
MTRCB PG-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7.40, 10.00

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MTRCB PG-13 1 30 4 20 7 10 10 00
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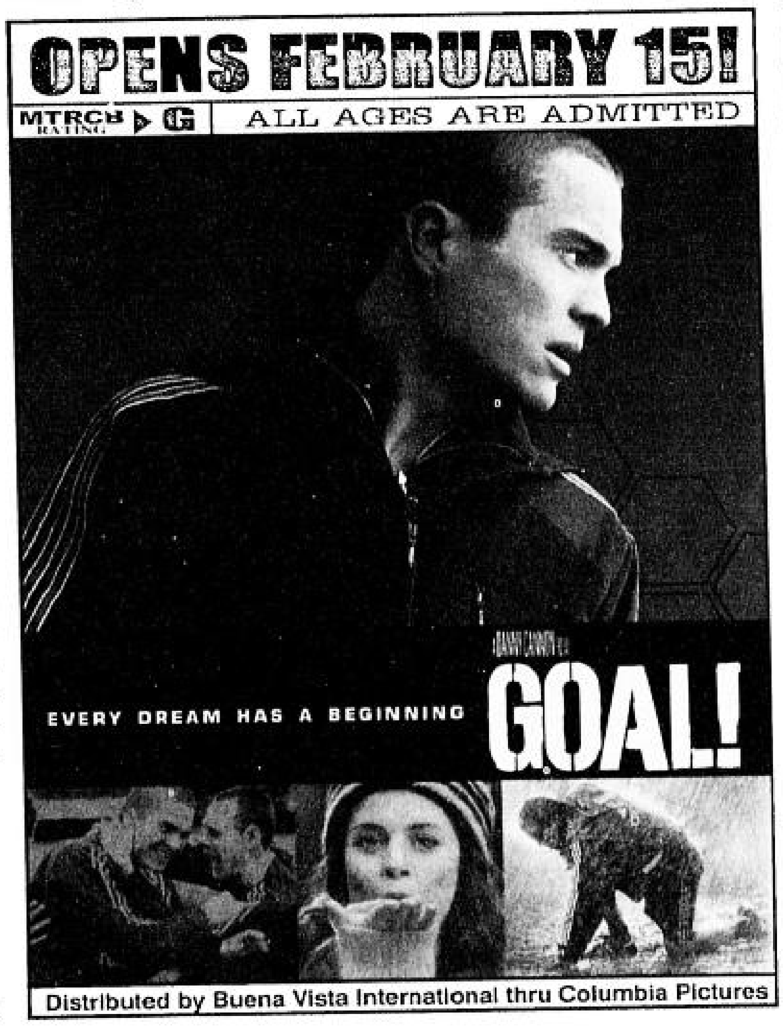

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EVERY DREAM HAS A BEGINNING
GOAL!
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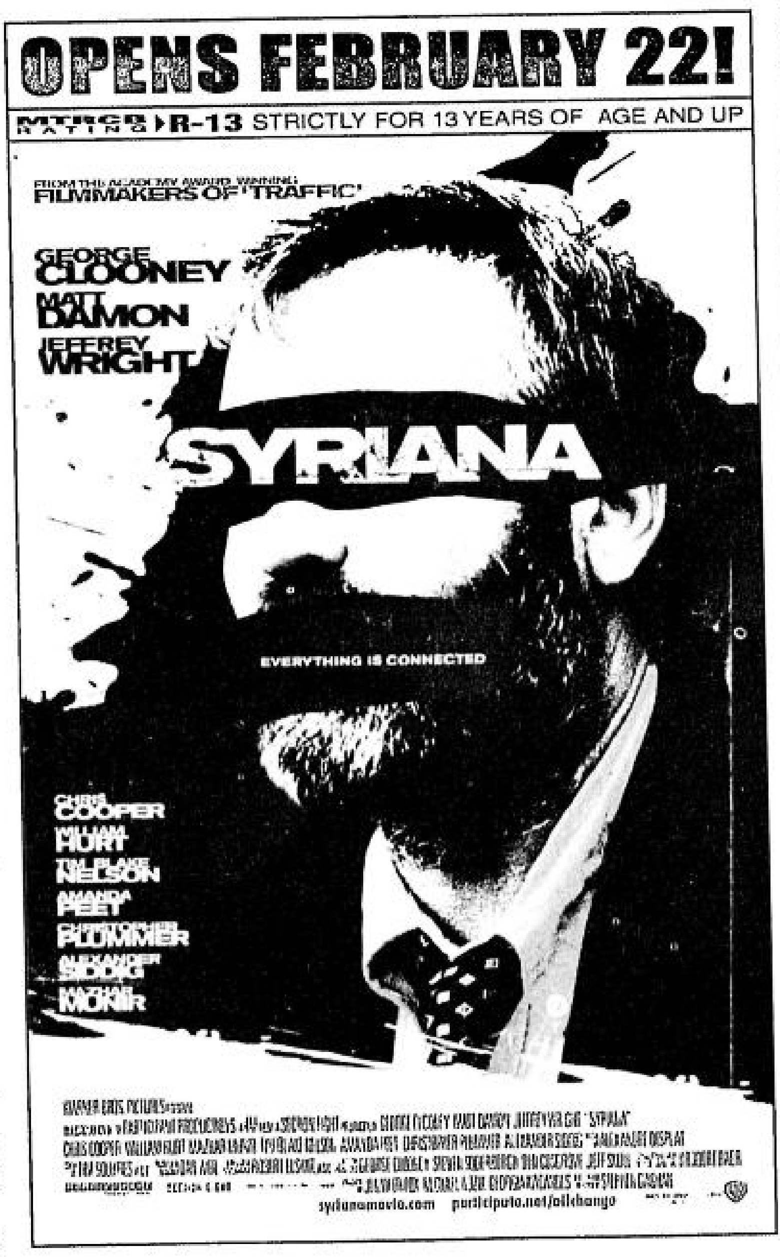
Solar Entertainment Corporation



OPENS FEBRUARY 22!
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
FROM THE ACADEMY AWARD WINNING FILMMAKERS OF 'TRAFFIC'
GEORGE CLOONEY
MATT DAMON
JEFFREY WRIGHT
SYRIANA
EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED
CHRIS COOPER
WILLIAM HURT
TIM BLAKE NELSON
AMANDA PEET
CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER
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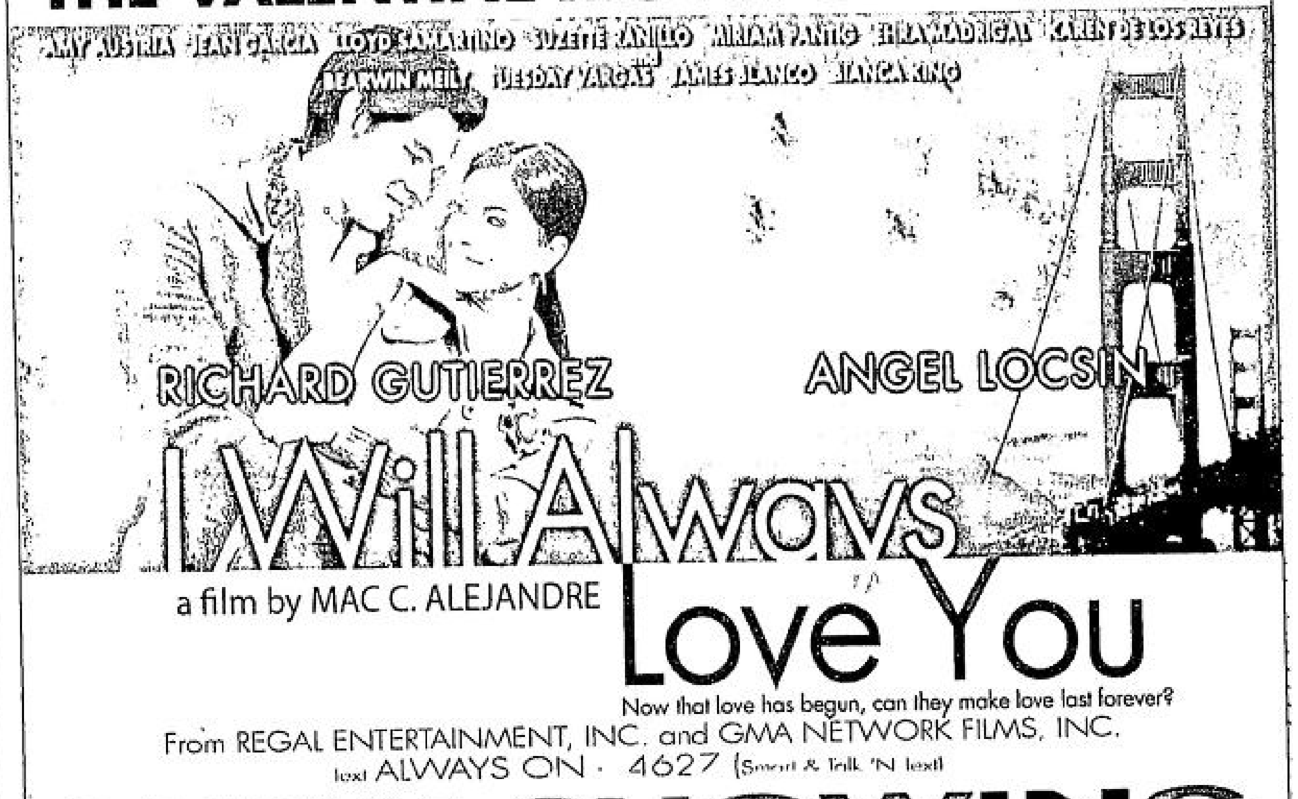
#1 BOX OFFICE HIT
THE VALENTINE MOVIE OF THE YEAR!



AMY AUSTRIA JEAN GARCIA LLOYD SAMARTINO SUZETTE RANILLO MIRIAM PANTIG ELLA MADRIGAL KAREN DE LOS REYES
BEARWIN MEILY TUESDAY VARGAS JAMES BLANCO BIANCA KING
RICHARD GUTIERREZ ANGEL LOCSIN
I Will Always Love You
a film by MAC C. ALEJANDRE
Now that love has begun, can they make love last forever?
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Catch the stars of I Will Always Love You inside selected theaters on February 14.
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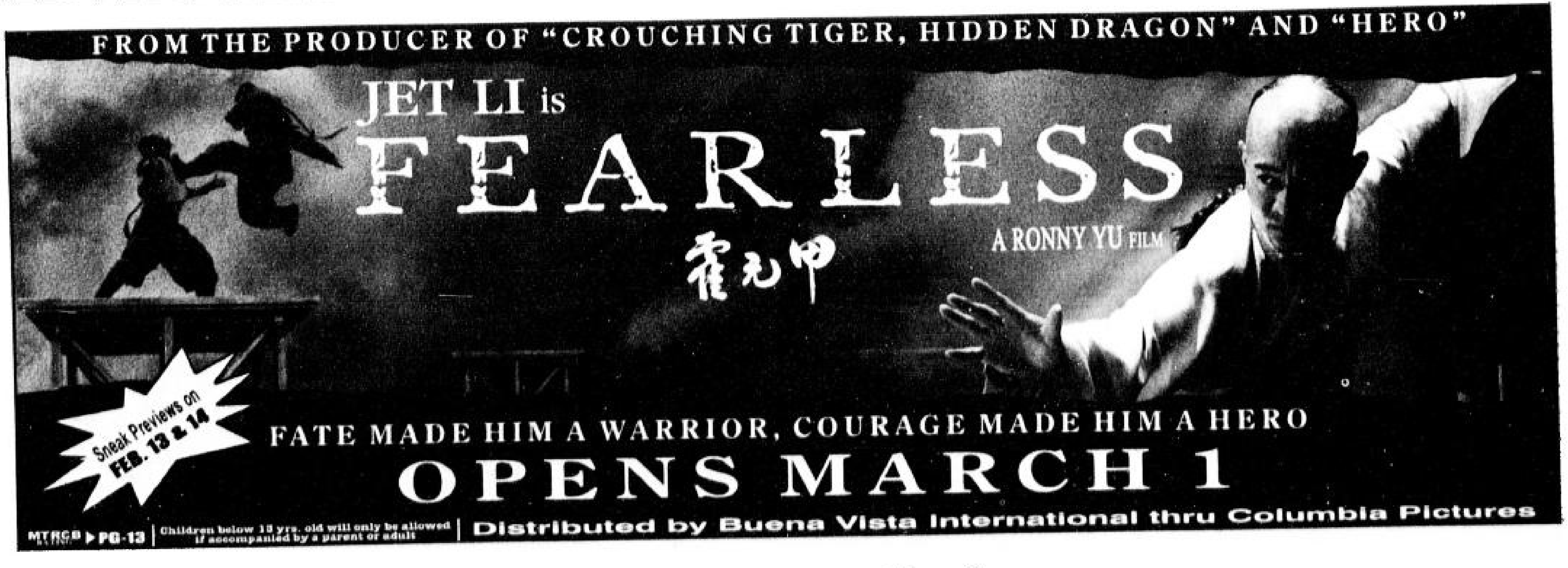
www.regalfilms.com/iwillalwaysloveyou

Watch "I Will Always Love You" and get a chance to win P100,000 cash, a trip to Hong Kong, and other amazing prices! Here's how to join:
1 Every purchase of one (1) I Will Always Love You movie ticket in all participating cinemas from February 10 to 19, 2006 entitles you to one (1) raffle ticket
2 Fill up the coupon with your name, address, telephone number and signature and drop in drop boxes located at the theater lobby
3 Raffle tickets must be dropped in drop boxes on or before February 19, 2006
4. Grand Draw will be held on February 23, 2006 at Eat Bulaga between 1:30-2:30PM. All entries will be consolidated at Eat Bulaga, Broadway Centrum where up for grabs are the following:
One (1) Grand Prize winner - PhP 100,000.00 cash
Other prizes:
Three (3) winners of roundtrip tickets to Hong Kong Disneyland for two for four days-three nights
Five (5) winners of Sanyo ST-21G1 53 34 cm (21") TV sets
Five (5) winners of Sanyo SR-S03DW 0 10cum (6 cu Ft) refrigerators Direct Cool
Five (5) winners of American Heritage AHMO-2032 microwave ovens
Five (5) winners of American Heritage AHWD-03 water dispensers
Five (5) winners of iPod Shuffle 512 MB M-9724ZP/A
Ten (10) winners of Orange DVD players
Ten (10) winners of Nokia 1100
Four (4) winners of M2023B 50 8cm (20") Easy Rider bicycles
Three (3) winners of American Home AWT-631P washing machines w/ dryer
Two (2) La Germania SL530-60W gas ranges
5 Winners can only win once. In the event that a name is picked more than once, he/she will get the price of higher value
6 Winners will be contacted by phone and/or registered mail.
7. Present the winning raffle claim stub and one (1) valid ID when claiming the prizes.
8 Prizes should be claimed at the Regal Entertainment, Inc. office at #35 Valencia St. Quezon City beginning February 24, 2006 The winner must claim his prize within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification. Failure to claim within the allotted time duration forfeits the winner's right over the prize with prior DTI approval
9. NMI shall contact winners outside Metro Manila and let them choose whether they want to receive their prize via courier or claim it at the Regal Office. Winners shall shoulder all shipping costs
10 All employees of GMA Network Inc., GMA New Media Inc., Regal Entertainment, Inc., participating cinemas and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from joining
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 088.i, series of 2006



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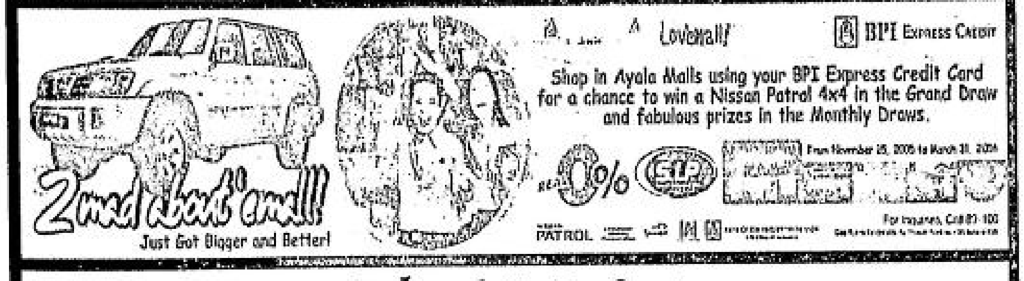

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Photo World Exhibit February 9 to 14, 2006	Luxury Motor Show February 10 to 12, 2006	Cebu Normal University's Nursing Week February 8, 2006

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 FIREWALL	2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU	3 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	4 FUN W/ DICK & JANE		
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 FUN W/ DICK & JANE	2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU	3 THX THE NEW WORLD GUARANTEED SEATS			
	4 DERAILED	5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2	6 FIREWALL	7 MUNICH		
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 FUN W/ DICK & JANE	2 FIREWALL				
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE NEW WORLD GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX WALK THE LINE GUARANTEED SEATS				
	3 DERAILED GUARANTEED SEATS	4 MUNICH GUARANTEED SEATS	5 FUN W/ DICK & JANE GUARANTEED SEATS			
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX FIREWALL	2 THE NEW WORLD				
	3 FUN W/ DICK & JANE	4 MUNICH	5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU			
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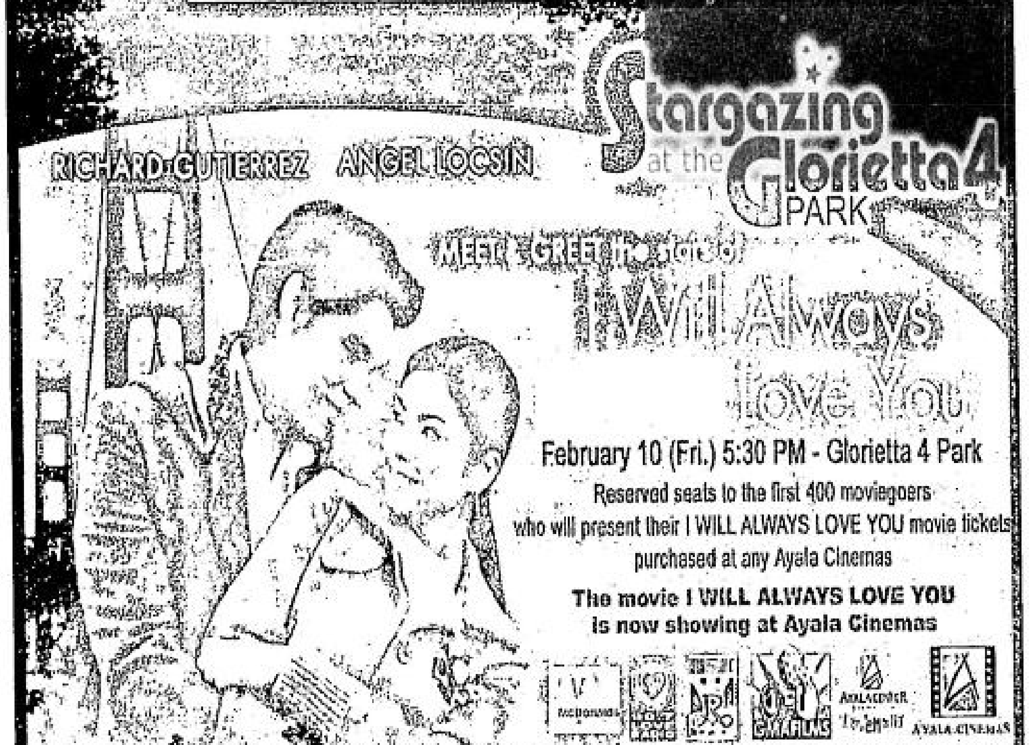

Stargazing at the Glorietta 4 PARK
RICHARD GUTIERREZ
ANGEL LOCSIN
MEET & GREET the stars of
I Will Always Love You
February 10 (Fri.) 5:30 PM - Glorietta 4 Park
Reserved seats to the first 400 moviegoers who will present their I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU movie tickets purchased at any Ayala Cinemas
The movie I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU is now showing at Ayala Cinemas

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
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1. I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2. FUN WITH DICK & JANE
3. DERAILED
4. FIREWALL
5. THE NEW WORLD

EVENTS! EVENTS!

Treats for Two

Buy 2 cinema tickets from Feb. 10 - 19, 2006 and get a chance to win an instant Valentine prize!

The 2 tickets must be bought for the same movie and on the same day.

Upon purchase, the moviegoer gets a chance to draw a coupon from the prize bowl.

If the coupon that was drawn indicates a prize, the moviegoer may redeem the prize instantly from the cinema ticket booth.

The moviegoer may only draw once for every pair of tickets bought.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-075, Series of 2006

MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds

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CINEMA 2 FUN WITH DICK & JANE 11:00, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45 PG13
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CINEMA 3 NEW WORLD 11:00, 1:55, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25 PG13
CINEMA 4 FUN WITH DICK & JANE 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20 PG13
CINEMA 5 FIREWALL 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20 PG13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

FEBRUARY 10,11 &13	VINA M., RACHEL A. & GENEVA C.	8:30PM
February 14, 2006	JESSA & DINGDONG AVANSADO	9PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

FEBRUARY 10,2006	BOBBY SOUL	9PM
FEBRUARY 11,2006	SIDE A	9PM
FEBRUARY 13 & 14	JAZZ YOU, JAZZ ME ISABELLA & RICHARD MERCK	9PM

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MADONNA

Madonna-thon

MYX CHANNEL PAYS TRIBUTE TO MADONNA IN A 24-hour special dubbed "Madonna-thon," starting midnight of Feb. 11. Madonna holds the fourth slot among the highest-selling artists of all time, having sold 275 million albums to date. The top three are The Beatles, Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley. Her latest album, "Confessions On the Dancefloor," has sold 6.5 million copies and is available in major music retail shops.

Meanwhile, in the March issue of US magazine Harper's Bazaar, Madonna says she's more stubborn than a terrorist—at least when it comes to her music career.

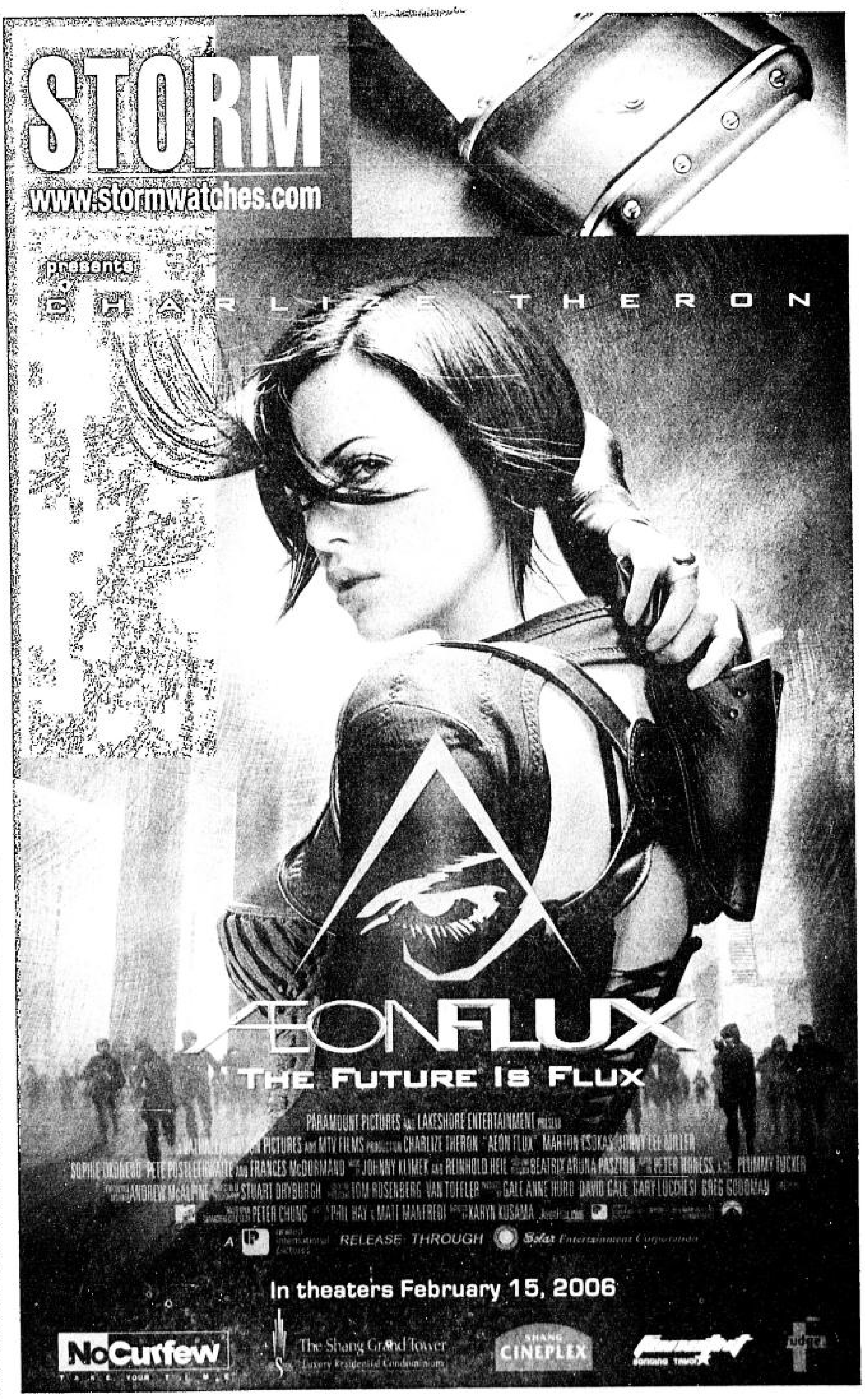
"What's the difference between a pop star and a terrorist? You can negotiate with a terrorist," jokes Madonna, poking fun at her diva reputation. The magazine hits newsstands Feb. 21.

The pop star will open Wednesday's Grammys performing with the virtual group, Gorillaz.

'Brokeback'

CINEMANILA INTERnational Film Festival and Sky Films present "Brokeback Mountain" at Robinsons Galleria tonight at 7:30.

For tickets, call 929-8368 or 405-0135; or email cinemanila@gmail.com.



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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
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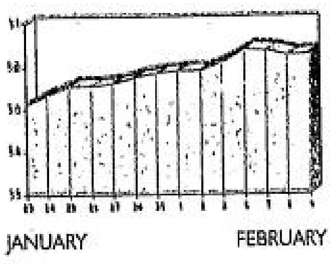
CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 51.73 = $

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 9, 2006

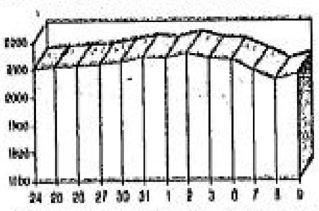
¥ 118.68 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 9, 2006

GOLD: $556.20-556.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 9, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close 1.1% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 1.1 percent higher, supported by bargain-hunting after a four-day downturn, dealers said.

The focus is mostly on market leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT), given expectations of strong 2005 earnings, with the stock bouncing back after heavy losses over the past two days following a

SHARES/ B4

Vehicle sales grow by 20%

Rush to beat VAT hike pushed up demand in January

By Ronnel W. Domingo

VEHICLE SALES GREW 19.9 PERCENT YEAR-ON-year in January due to the "last-minute" buying rush just before the value-added tax was hiked to 12 percent this month, according to an industry report.

Local assemblers sold a total of 7,739 units last month compared to 6,456 units sold in the same month of 2005.

In a joint report, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) said that January sales were normally slower due to the traditional year-end sales push of the previous month.

"It was only in the last few days of this January that sales started to pick up due to last minute purchases by buyers wanting to [avoid higher prices triggered by the VAT increase]," the groups said.

Turnover of commercial vehicles mirrored the overall market performance with a year-on-year increase of 22.1 percent in January.

Based on pending fleet accounts deliveries, sales of Asian utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles, light trucks and trucks and buses are expected to pick up in the next few months, they said.

Commercial vehicle sales cornered 60 percent of the overall market, with light commercial vehicles—pickups, vans, and compact sports utility vehicles—taking up 53 percent of the CV market.

A total of 4,629 CV units were sold last month compared to the 3,792 units of January 2005.

Sales of AUVs grew 32 percent to 1,988 units. LCV sales grew by 15 percent to 2,474 units, light trucks by 21 percent to 127 units, and trucks and buses by 33 percent to 40 units.

As for passenger cars, year-on-year sales went up 16.7 percent.

In terms of total sales, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. stayed in the lead with 35.4 percent of the market. It sold 2,742 units last month, up 34 percent.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. placed second with 13.8 percent of the market, selling 1,067 units or a 5.6-percent growth.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. came in third with 12.4 percent of the market with sales reaching 960 units or 36.8 percent higher.

Ford Philippines, the country's only exporter of completely built units, shipped out 646 units or 46.5 percent more than the 441 units it exported in January last year.

TETANGCO

Monetary Board retains key overnight rates

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY BOARD RETAINED the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' key overnight rates during its monthly policy rate setting yesterday, citing the slowdown in inflationary pressures and growth of domestic liquidity.

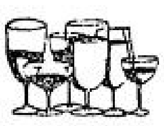
The BSP kept its overnight borrowing rate at 7.5 percent, and its overnight lending rate at 9.75 percent.

"Monetary authorities expect the impact of the expanded value-added tax to consist mainly of one-off increases in prices," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said. "[The VAT] is unlikely to fuel a sustained rise in inflation."

Tetangco also said that the BSP "supports the non-monetary measures of the national government to address sharp price increases in major commodities and services."

However, the central bank chief noted that global energy prices continue to be a risk factor in the outlook for inflation, given the geopolitical tension in major oil producing countries.

WHAT'S INSIDE



DBP power play /B3
Moody's call pulls back peso /B6

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CORPORATION

Globe to tap $100-$150M in loans

Funding for ₱13-B capex, pre-payment of expensive debts

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE TELECOM INC. YESTERDAY said it would borrow up to $150 million in five-year funds by June this year to finance a P13-billion capital expense, which included the roll-out of its third-generation or 3G mobile network.

"We will borrow between $100 million and $150 million within the year, likely by the middle of the year," said Globe chief financial officer Delfin Gonzalez. "It can be in dollars or pesos, depending on what is more attractive."

Gonzalez said the company would pay $148 million in maturing principal debts this year.

Globe may prepay debts if it could raise "economical" funds from banks. In late 2005, Globe paid about $130 million worth of obligations maturing in 2007 and 2008.

Last year's prepayment, said Gonzalez, allowed Globe to realize about P45 million in annual interest payments starting this year.

In December, Globe signed a P1.62 billion worth of five-year loan and a $100-million loan with foreign and local banks. Some of the proceeds were used to pay expensive loans.

As of end-2005, Globe had about P50 billion (roughly $950 million) in outstanding debts.

Gonzalez said the company could continue exploring opportunities to lighten its debt load, either by refinancing or prepayment, especially if interest rates would ease further.

ABLAZA

Cutting down debts is easier for companies like Globe which have huge free cash to finance capital investments.

Capital expenses this year is projected to drop to P13 billion from P14.5 billion last year. The bulk of the capital outlay will come from internal funds.

Like its rival, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Globe had been aggressive in rolling out capital-intensive infrastructure in the previous years. This means investments in infrastructure in the next couple of years will not be as heavy.

Spending for 3G is going to be minimal. Globe president Gerardo Ablaza said the company would initially allot about $100 million to upgrade the network to 3G.

Smart Communications Inc. said its projected initial 3G investment would only be about $60 million.

SM ads in Inquirer continue

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER (PDI) vice president for advertising Pepito Olarte said the SM Group had committed to continue booking their ads with this paper.

Olarte said some SM bookings last week were "rescheduled due to market evaluation."

He said PDI and the SM group had been negotiating for a possible Just Shop-SM retail supplement in time for the opening of the SM Mall of Asia.

Olarte's statement was issued in connection with Conrad Banal's Breaktime column, which appeared yesterday.

RP call center industry seen overtaking that of India

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOCAL CALL CENTER INDUSTRY MAY overtake that of India in terms of earnings as foreign investors continue to locate in the country, according to an industry research firm.

Lauro Vives, global managing partner of XMG Inc., said Philippine call centers could match the $3.2 billion annual revenue posted by call centers in India by the end of 2007, or earlier than the previous projection of 2008.

"That is achievable if current factors like earnings per seat remained," Vives said.

"Still, we should not be comparing the country to India, but rather to similar markets like those of Brazil, Mexico and Russia," Vives said.

In terms of what a country could offer in services, infrastructure and businesses in general, Vives said India was in a different league with Malaysia and China.

XMG senior analyst Cesar Tolentino said call centers accounted for about half of the total earnings from information technology-enabled services in the country.

"Of the estimated $1.8 billion ITES earnings in 2005, call centers contributed $1 billion (or about 56 percent)," Tolentino said.

Also, he said call center earnings grew 16.3 percent in 2005 from $860 million in 2004 when the sector put in 72 percent of total $1.2 billion in ITES revenues.

"For this year, we expect total ITES earnings to reach $2.3 billion, of which call centers would account for up to $1.7 billion (or 74 percent)," Tolentino said.

He added that the estimate for call center earnings in 2006 was still conservative as this was based on the assumption that no new investments would come in for the rest of the year.

"In fact, there are several investors that are planning to set up operations here," Tolentino said.

Earlier, Vives said ITES earnings was expected to grow by about 33 percent this year as the country continued to attract offshore businesses.

He said ITES providers would be wise to reposition their businesses amid a trend of "backsourcing" or switching from outsourced services to internal back office operations.

He added that with heightened awareness on the capabilities of Asia-Pacific countries and the increasing internal tolerance for risks in operating offshore, several organizations that have previously outsourced multi-year contracts with overseas operators would set up their own outfits abroad to meet internal business process and IT needs.

Electricity spot market opening to be delayed

By Abigail L. Ho

THE START OF COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS of the wholesale electricity spot market will be delayed by at least two months, according to Wesm market operator Philippine Electricity Market Corp.

This is due to PEMC's withdrawal of its application with the Energy Regulatory Commission for its price determination methodology.

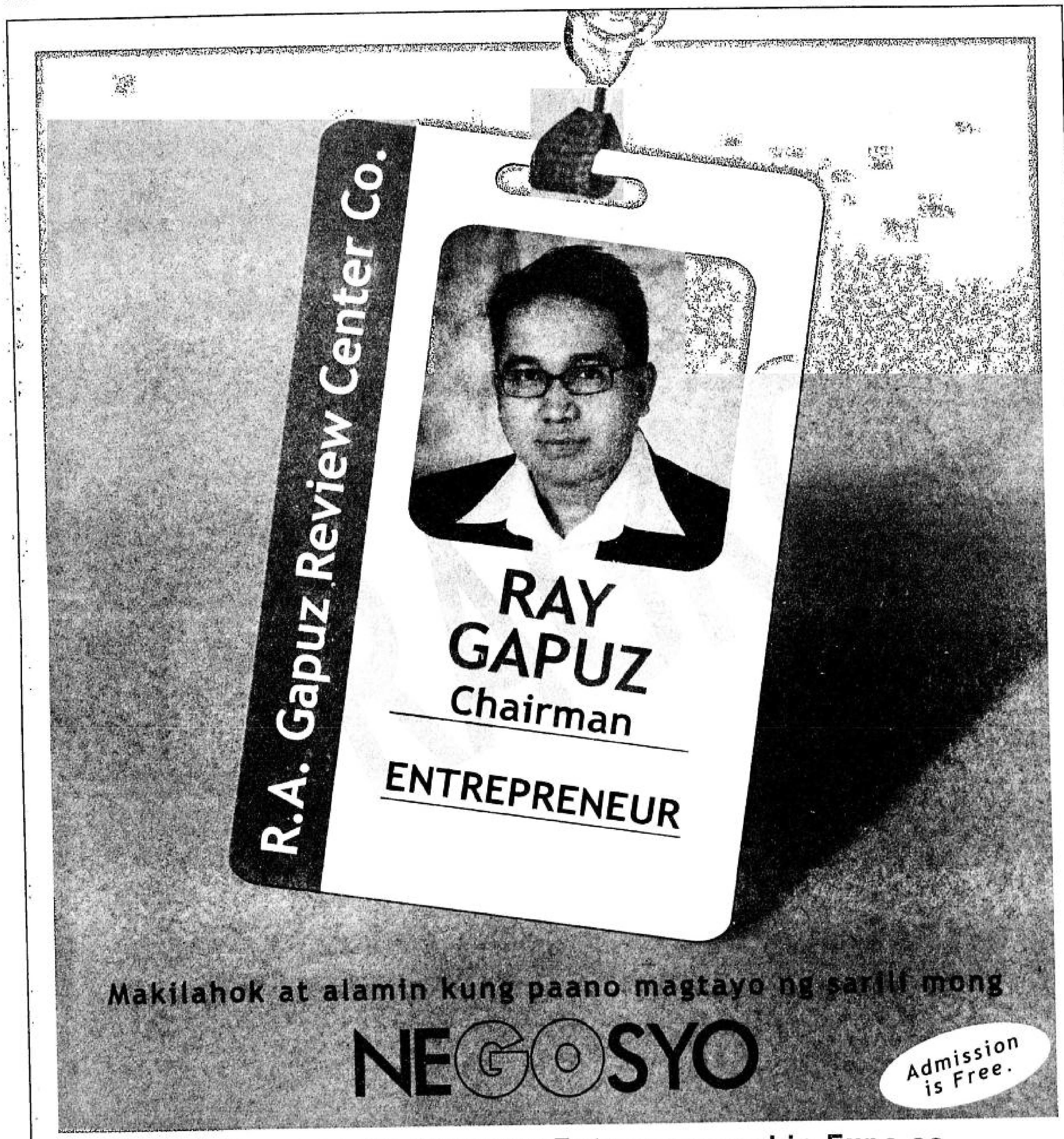
PEMC president Lasse Holopainen said PEMC withdrew the application "to prevent any procedural technicalities in the wake of the Supreme Court's recent ruling on the Meralco case."

The Supreme Court last week nullified ERC's June 2, 2004 order approving Meralco's second Gram filing, which resulted in a generation charge increase of 13.27 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

The high tribunal cited as reason for the decision failure on the part of Meralco to publish its Gram application in a newspaper of general circulation.

PEMC did not want its application for pricing methodology to suffer the same fate.

ELECTRICITY/B3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DBP power play

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

A POWER PLAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines targetting chair Vitaliano Nañagas II has erupted out into the open.

The immediate cause was supposed to have been a number of representation expenses incurred by Nañagas in 2004 during his official foreign trips.

Nañagas, who purposely absented himself in the other day's board meeting when an in-house audit report was discussed, could not be reached for comment. What is clear is that someone within the DBP has been leaking a 30-page report to the media, apparently in the hope of whipping up an anti-Nañagas sentiment similar to what had caused the latter's departure from the Social Security System before he headed DBP.

Victoria's secret trip

THE country's newest billionaire, lawyer/heiress Victoria delos Reyes, has been in the United States for nearly two weeks now, apparently to take care of any tax and estate complications with the Feds in regard to her sudden fortune.

According to the grapevine, Delos Reyes informed her top corporate clients before the Yuletide holidays that she was going on leave to attend to the problems that has befallen her ever since her billionaire aunt, Pacita Ongsiako delos Reyes-Phillips, passed away nearly a year ago.

Ironically, Delos Reyes may have caused the troubles herself when the legal ethics lecturer, despite being executrix of her aunt's fabulous estate, allegedly cleaned out about $400,000 in her aunt's San Francisco bank account immediately after the billionaire's death.

What further complicated the closure of the US bank account was that it was the mother account of another US bank account that the late billionaire had set up to support her estranged husband, Dr. Ralph Phillips.

On this latest trip, Delos Reyes was apparently trying to arrange a visit to the American retiree in his nursing home in an attempt to amicably settle the court suit he had filed against her and the estate.

In the disputed will, the American husband was completely disinherited by his childless wife for having allegedly abandoned her, with some P2-3 billion worth of the estate consequently all going to Delos Reyes and her lone brother.

But luck was not on the lawyer's side; the American doctor also passed away on the eve of Delos Reyes' US trip, according to the doctor's counsel Vicente Chuidian.

Chuidian claimed that Delos Reyes had planned to challenge and expunge the doctor's signed statements challenging his wife's will on sanity grounds.

Ironically, it is the same line of attack that Chuidian has chosen in an attempt to discredit the disputed will that Mrs. Phillips, an octogenarian like her husband, had allegedly signed on the eve of her death.

Money-go-round

- RETIRED Meralco executive Joe Guingona won a Mercedes-Benz B170 when he scored a hole-in-one the other day during the Golden Tee tournament at the Manila Golf Club.

Luckily, the dealer and price donor, CATS Motors, changed its mind at the last minute and had itself fully covered for the P2.25-million SUV.

- Room service special: The newest boutique "hotel" in Makati referred to in Wednesday's column, Roman Suites on Pasay Road, apparently doubles as a high-end massage parlor.
- Publicly listed but hardly traded ATN Holdings is attempting to forestall the return of Clinica Manila to its medical founder, Hernan Delizo, who had already won the legal battle at the Supreme Court and the SEC level against his erstwhile partner Arsenio T. Ng.

Heard through the grapevine

THE Sys and the Dees have agreed to a new round of shares offering of Chinabank within the year.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Electricity spot market opening to be delayed

From page B2

"It (withdrawing the application) is a difficult decision to make, but it is a prudent one. I would rather spend a few more weeks ensuring that everything is done correctly rather than expose our market participants to added risk," he said.

The ERC was supposed to begin public hearings on PEMC's PDM application last Tuesday, but the firm decided to withdraw its application.

Under the Wesm, electricity will be traded via the Internet on an hourly basis.

Much like trading in the stock market, electricity prices are not fixed. These will fluctuate depending on the supply, demand and even the time of trading.

Wesm's PDM will serve as the basis for calculation of prices in the electricity spot market.

Instead of pegging prices on specific peso values, the PDM will serve as a formula that will be used to compute how much electricity should be priced within a certain hour.

The ERC, meanwhile, is preparing to file a motion for reconsideration on the Meralco decision.

Lecturer: Atty. Dennis Tablizo
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Investment Funds of Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure	UNIT PRICES (in Php) Feb. 6, 2006	Jan. 30, 2006
Fixed Income Fund	1.114284	1.112192
Balanced Fund	1.106915	1.103875
Equity Fund	1.091536	1.086236

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Feb. 7, 2006	Last Week Jan. 31, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.36757	1.36362
Managed Fund - Peso	1.48735	1.49128
Growth Fund - Peso	1.13991	1.16111
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2302	1.2240

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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PLDT stock rebounds

By Clarissa S. Batino and Daxim L. Lucas

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE Telephone Co. yesterday regained more than half of the shareholder's value it lost the other day after the company assured stock fundamentals and finances would remain sound despite an increasing number of common shares in the market.

"We have recovered about P12.7 billion of market value today," PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said, as he downplayed the negative effects that the release of a large block of new common shares would have on the company's stock price.

PLDT's share price rose by P70 to close at P1,750 yesterday.

The country's largest telco firm lost almost P20 billion of its market value Wednesday, when share price dropped by P110 to P1,680 apiece. The fall reduced PLDT's market value to P303.9 billion from P323.8 billion in a single day.

At the same time, Morgan Stanley downgraded its stock, saying that PLDT's earnings increases would be capped by slower growth in the mobile phone sector.

"Morgan Stanley is of the opinion that PLDT shares are already fairly valued," said Florentino Mabasa, assistant corporate secretary PLDT. "We, however, believe that PLDT's share price is still trading below its regional peers and Phisix stocks."

The company's reassurances helped assuage the market's fears sending the company stock price higher by P70 during trading at the PSE.

CURRENCIES

February 9, 2006

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.835981	1	51.759
Japan	Yen	0.007053	0.008437	0.4367
United Kingdom	Pound	1.456117	1.741800	90.1538
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107692	0.128821	6.6676
Switzerland	Franc	0.643310	0.769527	39.8299
Canada	Dollar	0.727446	0.870171	45.0392
Singapore	Dollar	0.512431	0.612970	31.7267
Australia	Dollar	0.617142	0.738225	38.2098
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.217984	2.653153	137.3245
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222928	0.266667	13.8024
Brunei	Dollar	0.510866	0.611098	31.6298
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000090	0.000108	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021047	0.025176	1.3031
UAE	Dirham	0.227607	0.272264	14.0921
Euro	Euro	1	1.196200	61.9141
India	Rupee	0.018935	0.02265	1.1723
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223943	0.267881	13.8653
Mexico	New Peso	0.079398	0.094976	4.9159
Korea	Won	0.000860	0.001029	0.0533
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025882	0.030960	1.6025

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 9, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35.5	36	35	36	1,145,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	59.5	58	58.5	381,400
China Banking Corp.	605	610	605	610	5,080
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	61	63	61	63	518,100
International Exch. Bank	21.75	21.75	21.75	21.75	57,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	32	31	31.5	730,400
Philippine National Bank	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	6,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	100
Security Bank Corp.	38.5	39	38.5	38.5	108,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	34	34.5	34	34.5	102,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25	25	25	25	300
Manulife Financial Corp.	3080	3080	3080	3080	10
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	146	146	146	146	1,000
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.67	0.65	0.67	260,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45	45.5	44.5	45	1,363,900
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	1,500
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	683,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	8,903,000
Petron Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.5	4.55	4,773,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.215	0.225	0.215	0.225	2,870,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	21.5	21.5	21.25	21.25	22,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	36	36	35	35.5	794,200
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.7	202,000
San Miguel Corp. A	62	62.5	62	62	370,600
San Miguel Corp. B	84.5	84.5	84	84.5	28,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	300,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	510,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.22	1.24	1.2	1.2	9,465,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	50,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.25	4.3	4.2	4.3	3,423,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	60,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	3,400,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	5,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	12,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	11,000,000
Atok-Big Wedge. Inc. B	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	3,000
Ayala Corp.	325	332.5	325	325	171,970
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	5	4.9	5	2,127,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	500,000
APC Group Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.88	1,050,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.92	1.98	1.92	1.98	221,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	4,102,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.1	270,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	14,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.45	4.4	4.4	519,000
Keppel Holdings	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	12,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.24	2,810,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	500,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	110,000
SM Investments Corp.	221	221	217	218	141,260
South China Resources Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	20,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.145	4,260,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11	11.25	11	11	8,071,500
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	90,000
Belle Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	2,730,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.22	0.235	0.22	0.235	3,440,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.58	1.5	1.54	4,084,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	5,070,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.48	2,363,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.2	2,360,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.38	1.38	6,061,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.34	7,230,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.165	0.12	0.155	5,250,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	640,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6	6	6	6	21,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.185	7,790,000
SM Development Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.4	475,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.1	8	8.1	6,463,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.13	3,230,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11	11	11	11	107,500
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	86,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.89	610,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	750	750	750	35,600
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.15	3.15	1,728,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1730	1750	1730	1750	418,320
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.17	380,000
Ionics Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	15,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0525	0.0525	9,200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	127,400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.5	11.5	11	11.25	1,335,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	5,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.68	1,180,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	1,230,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.25	3.35	3.2	3.35	337,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	5,000
Paxys Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	1,313,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.1	322,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	31,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	7,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6	6.1	5.9	6	490,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.23	37,240,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	17,190,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.019	0.017	0.019	216,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.028	0.025	0.027	243,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.7	5,234,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.98	2.02	1.98	2	5,549,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27	27	27	398,700
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	470,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	50,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	15,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	250,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.05	81,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,600
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(PDR)	11	11	10.75	10.75	362,500

Shares close . . .

From page B1

Morgan Stanley downgrade.

The composite index gained 22.73 points at 2,083.65 after trading between 2,060.92 and 2,090.10.

Volume was 916.16 million shares worth P1.49 billion ($28.8 million).

The all-shares index was up 25.12 points at 976.33.

Gainers beat losers 53 to 20, with 52 stocks unchanged.

The peso was at 51.885 to the dollar as of mid-day. *AFP*

Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of TAAL
Province of Batangas

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date : February 10, 2006
Contract ID No.: SP-080-IN-01
World Bank Loan No.: 446PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the ***Construction of Taal Public Market.*** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the ***Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.***
2. The ***Municipality of Taal, Batangas*** invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the ***Construction of Taal Public Market with a total floor area of 2,880 sq.m. consisting of 188 stalls distributed to three (3) buildings for wet and dry sections with perimeter roads and site development.***
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***February 13-March 14, 2006 at the Municipal Treasurer's Office, Municipal Building, Municipality of Taal, Batangas*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Eight Thousand Pesos (P 8,000.00)*** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ***ninety (90) days*** after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security of ***Seven hundred seventy thousand pesos (P 770,000.00)*** in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the ***Municipal Budget Office, Municipal Building, Municipality of Taal, Batangas*** on or before ***March 14, 2006, 9:00 a.m.*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held on ***February 28, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the Municipal Session Hall, Municipal Building, Municipality of Taal, Batangas.***

(Sgd.) RONNEL M. DAWIS
BAC Chairman

(PDI – February 10, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY
Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), will conduct a public bidding for the supply of the following computer equipment.

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET
18 Units	IBM branded desktop computer with the following specifications. • Pentium IV 3.0 GHz processor (HT Technology) • 256 MB DDR Memory • At least 64MB video card • At least 80 GB hard drive • Windows XP Professional, pre-installed • AVR • Monitor 17" • CD ROM 52X • Floppy Drive 1.4	P 1,600,000.00
2 Units	Any branded Lap Top • Intel Pentium Processor • 256MB DDR Memory upgradeable up to 2GB • At least 40GB Hard Disk Drive • FDD (EXT / INT) • 56K Modem • 10/100 Mbps Fast Ethernet LAN • Combo Drive • At least 2x USB 2.0 Port • Microsoft Windows XP (Home/Prof.)	
12 Units	Antivirus (Mc Afee)	
6 Units	HP PSC 3-in-1 1410 printer	
20 Units	MS Office XP 2003 (OLP NL)	

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive procedures as specified in the IRR-A of RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The BAC will use the single stage bidding system under which all interested bidders are required to submit three (3) envelopes namely: the Eligibility Envelope, the First envelope or Technical Proposals and the Second Envelope or the Financial Proposal.

All particulars relative to Eligibility statement and screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, pre-bid conference, evaluation of Bids, post qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its IRR

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
Issuance of Bid Documents	Feb. 10-23, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference	(Optional) Feb. 23, 2006
Dropping of Bid Tender Documents	March 7, 2006 on or before 12.00 AM
Opening of Bids	March 7, 2006 (2.00 P.M.)
Bid Evaluation	March 8, 2006
Post Qualification	March 9, 2006
Notice of Award	March 15, 2006

The CAB assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the above, please contact Mr Jesus F Ibay Jr, Chief, Administrative Division or Mr Wilmer C. Camba, at Office telephone number 851-48-98

CARMELO L. ARCILLA
Deputy Executive Director
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)

(PDI-Feb. 10 & 17, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street Pasay City, Metro Manila Philippines
Telephone 891-8444 • Facsimile 551-9587
E-mail peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com • Website. www.peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 3,180,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Forty (40) 3TR Air-condition Units and Dismantling of Existing Thirty (30) 5TR A/C Units at the PEZA Head Office. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for ***Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Forty (40) 3TR Air-conditioning Units and Dismantling of Thirty (30) 5 TR A/C Units at PEZA Head Office***. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 13 to 22 February 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PhP 2,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *PEZA* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 01 March 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 13 March 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on 13 March 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day

The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website. www.peza.gov.ph

(PDI–Feb. 10 & 17, 2006)

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(For Business Dev't Supervisors applicants, please look for Mr. Mar Manabat or Mr. Jess Yap or can email your resumé to jessy@mail.irnet.net.ph or gqydistribution.com.ph) and (For Customer Service Representative applicants, please look for Lynn Marcelo)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OF MANILA
Customs District II-A
South Harbor, Manila

February 7, 2006

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601, other related provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines and CMO 5-2003, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION SALE (Sealed Bidding) to be conducted at the Office of Auction and Cargo Disposal Division Room No. 304, Customhouse Bldg., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila on **February 21, 2006** (Tuesday) of the hereunder listed Various Articles. Said item shall be available for public viewing on **February 7, 2006** (Friday). *In the event of failed bidding, the same shall be offered in a second auction to be held on the third business day following the first failed bidding at the same time and place with no reduction of the floor price and without need for further advertisement, except as to perishable items, which may be auctioned again on the following business day.* When at least two of the sealed bids submitted in an auction fall within ten (10%) percent of the highest bid, the same should be above the floor price (clustering). Those in the cluster shall immediately go into an open bidding with the highest sealed bid serving as the new floor price of the lot being sold.

The winning bidders shall be required to pay 50% of the bid price either in cash and/or manager's check (Payable to PNB only) at the end of the bidding. For meritorious reason, said bidder may be allowed to make such payment not later than two (2) hours from the awarding of the won bid. The remaining balance of 50% of the bid price shall be paid within the next business day.

IMPORTANT:

Only registered bidders who have paid the Registration Fee of Two Thousand (P2,000.00) pesos and Cash Bond (Refundable) of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) are eligible to participate in the auction sale.

Registration starts at 1:30 pm and will close at 2:00 pm.

For further inquiry, please contact the following telephone number 528-60-00 local 459.

SALE LOT #	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE
100-05	1X40' Container Men's T-Shirt/Shirts (13,280 kgs) YMLU 8021092	Php 3,838,434.60
101-05	250 Rolls, PVC Pipes	Php 862,596.75

(Sgd.) HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.
District Collector
Port of Manila

(PDI–Feb. 10, 2006)

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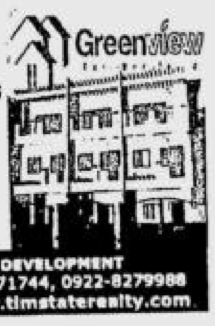

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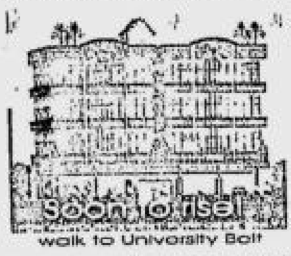
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In compliance with section 12, Rule II, of the Revised POEA Rules and Regulations.

PLEASE BE INFORMED that our office has transferred to its new location at:

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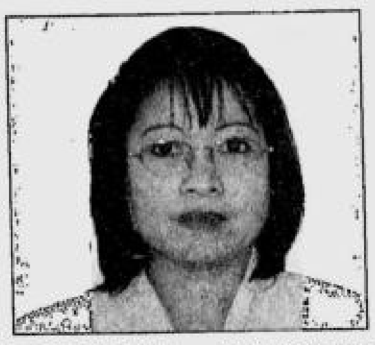

ANTONIETA (Nenette) NAVARRO

This is to inform our customers, suppliers and the public that **Ms. Antonieta (Nenette) Navarro** is no longer connected with Sky International, Inc. since Dec. 22, 2005.

Any Transaction entered by her on behalf of the company and/or its authorized officers shall not be accepted by the Company.

SKY INTERNATIONAL, INC.

(PDI-February 10, 2006)

ERRATUM

In the advertisement of **WESTERN VISAYAS MEDICAL CENTER** Re: Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid, published in the Classified Section of Philippine Daily Inquirer last February 7, 2006, the date of the Opening of Bids was inadvertently printed as March 28, 2006 instead of **February 28, 2006**.

Our apologies

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late CONSTANTE C. PAZ has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs before Notary Public Oscar Eusebio, San Diego, California, U.S.A and authenticated by Vice - Consul Gines Jaime Ricardo D. Gallaga of the Republic of the Philippines, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A per Document No. 02060-62, Series of 2006
(PDI Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 2006)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Jesus Delprado and Pura Cabrera has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs before Notary Public Leticia S. Mariano de Guia of Parañaque City. As per Doc. No. 82 Page 18 Book No. 111 Series of 2006.
(PDI Feb. 3,10, & 17, 2006)

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ISIDRO "ROY" HOJAS ESCAÑO

of Cagayan de Oro City
on his 24th Death Anniversary
on February 10, 2006

Masses will be offered today, Friday, February 10, 2006
at the following churches:

GREENHILLS MEMORIAL PARK, Bulua	4:00 p.m.
SAN VICENTE FERRER, Cugman	6:00 a.m.
SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR, Gusa	6:00 a.m.
JESUS NAZARENO PARISH, Recto Ave.	5:30 p.m.
OUR LADY OF FATIMA, Camaman-an	6:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL, Carmen	6:00 a.m.
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL	5:00 p.m.
SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA, Nazareth	6:00 a.m.
STO. NIÑO PARISH, Cogon	6:00 a.m.
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Bulua	6:00 a.m.
CARMELITE MONASTERY, Camaman-an	6:00 a.m.
CARMELITE MONASTERY, Bukidnon	6:30 a.m.

We, his relatives, request the friends and pious readers to join us for the eternal repose of his soul.

ROSITA ECHAVEZ MANUEL

(Rose)

formerly of Winthrop - Stearns
April 23, 1922 - February 8, 2006

Her sisters **Rosario (Charing) M. Tiongco**; and **Salvacion (Sally) M. Gainous**; nephews, nieces and relatives request you to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Interment will be on Sunday, February 12, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

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• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

Message of Thanks

We, the wife **Ofelia**, the children **Jocelyn** and **Arthur**, **Cecilia** and **Rolo**, **Edwin** and **Rachelle**, and grandson **Christopher**, of the late

AMB. RODOLFO S. SANCHEZ

who joined his Creator on January 28, 2006

wish to thank you, our relatives and friends,
for being with us in our time of grief.
Your kindness and expressions of sympathy
are greatly appreciated.

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VICTORIA ZARA

Peacefully joined her Creator
on December 25, 2006 in Palmdale, Ca.

Her remains were cremated on December 30, 2006.

Her loving husband **Pedro M. Zara, Jr.**, along with their children **Pedro III**, **Chona**, **Queen**, **Don Jose**, along with their spouses, children and grandchild request all their relatives and friends to celebrate her memory with them at a special Mass to be held at the St. Ignatius Cathedral in Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C. on Saturday, February 11, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., followed by a luncheon at the AFPCOC Main Restaurant.

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Whether you're a social livewire hopping from one bar to the next or more of a laidback people-watcher sipping coffee on the sidelines, you know that there's more to life than just the daily grind. It's about the people and the connections you make with them that make life worth living.

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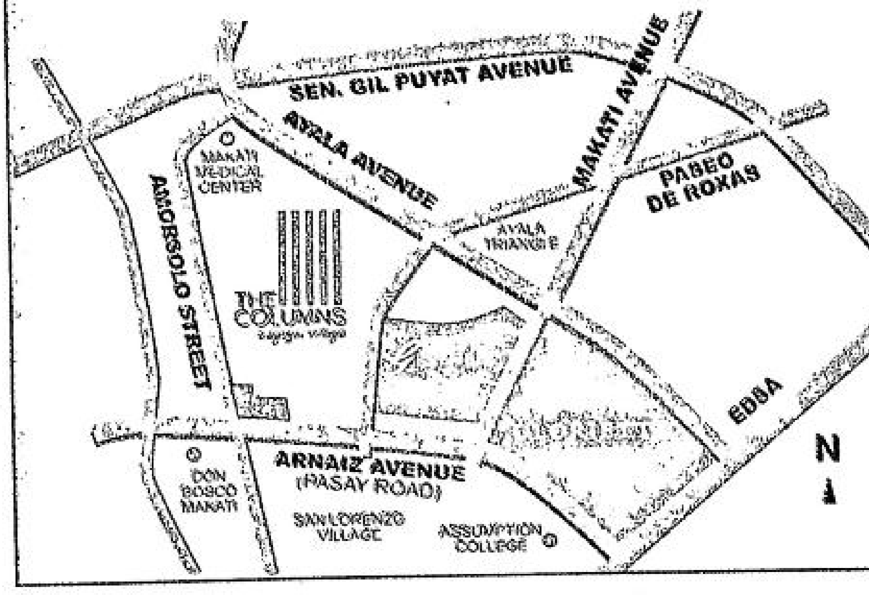

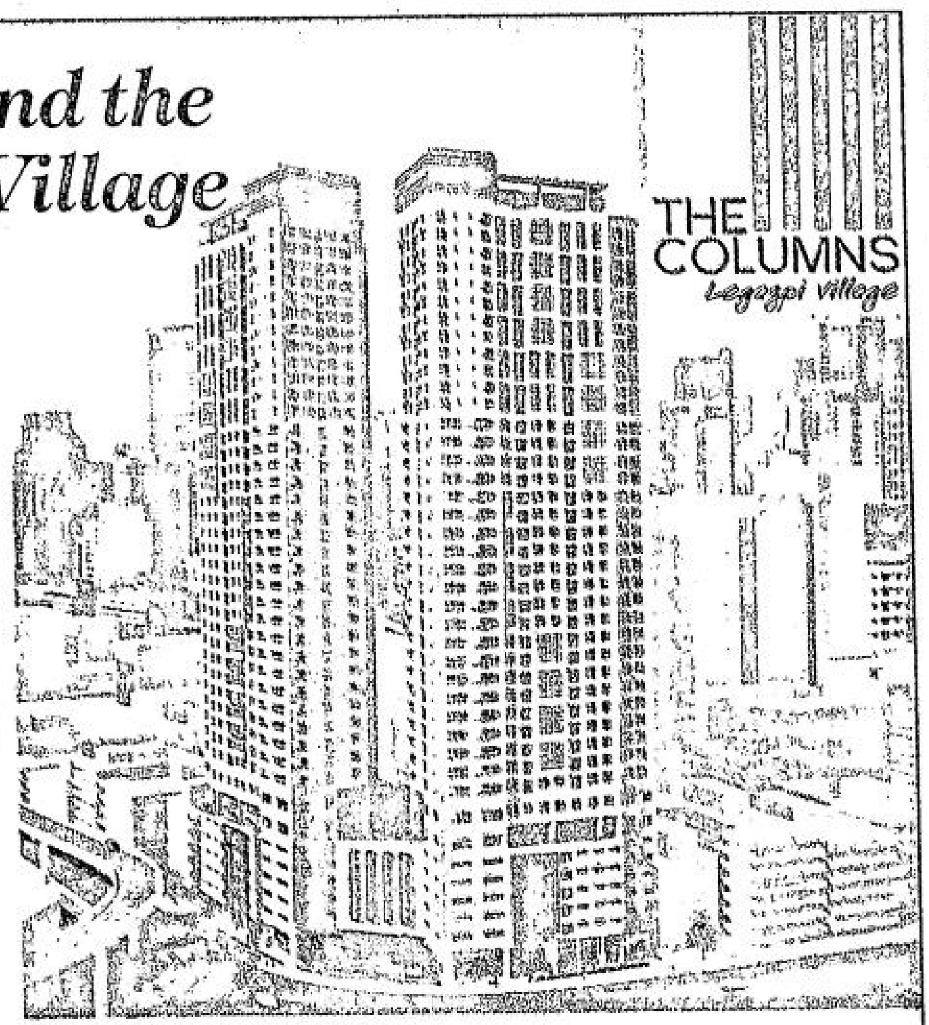

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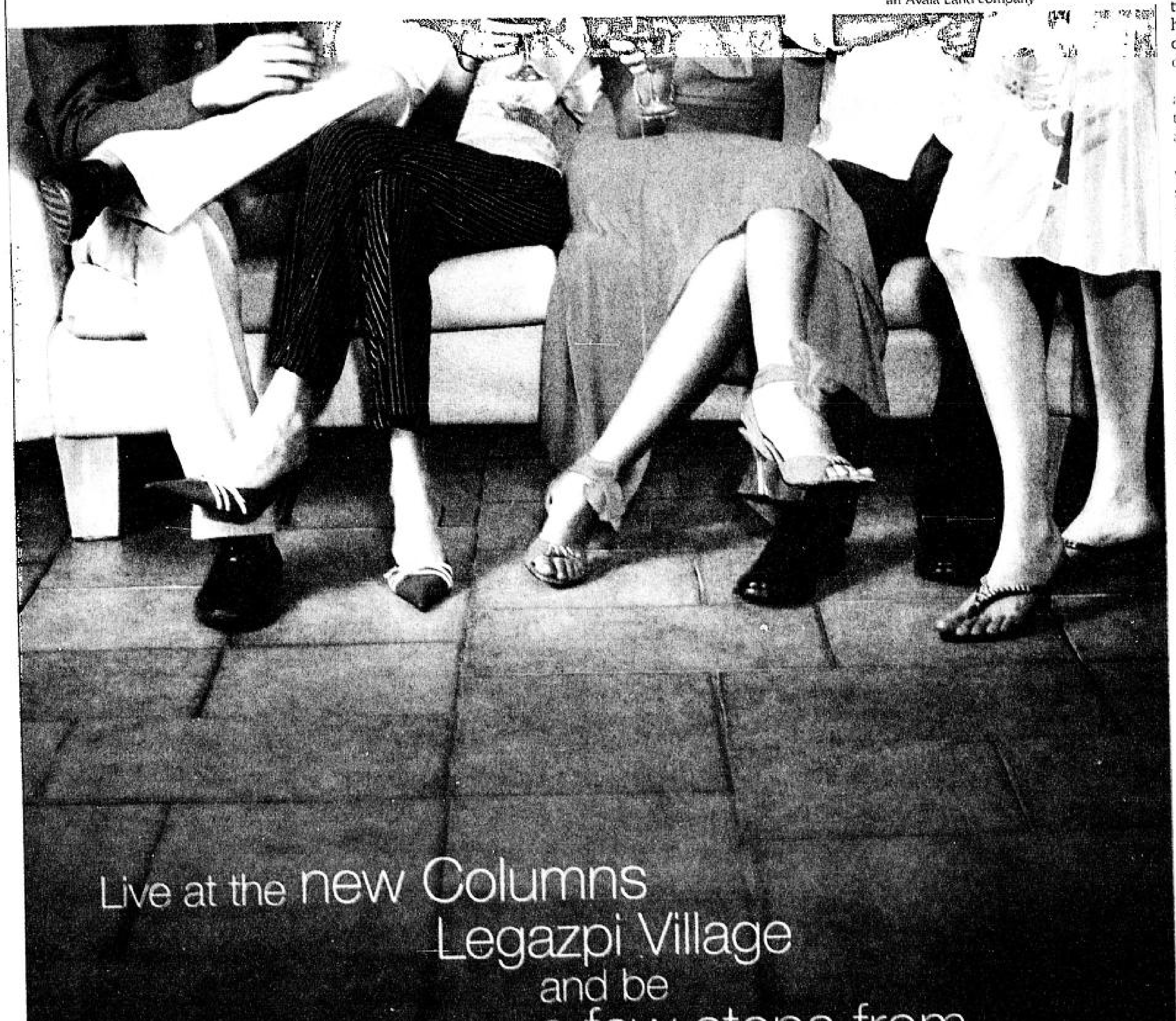

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Moody's call pulls back peso

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO PULLED BACK TO NEARLY 52 TO a US dollar before closing at 51.73 yesterday due mainly to the negative credit rating by Moody's and growing corporate demand for the US currency.

This was the third straight session that the peso lost ground against the greenback after peaking at 51.57 earlier this week.

The peso fell to an intra-day low of 51.97 before closing at 51.73 after Moody's kept its negative outlook on the country's B1 debt rating, which means a downgrade is possible over the near term.

Moody's said that while there had been progress in reducing the budget deficit in 2005 by implementing an expanded value-added tax, "more will be needed to bring the Philippines' exceptionally high public sector deficit down."

"Moody's believes that the Philippines will need to make more progress in fiscal consolidation before downward pressure is removed on its B1 ratings," Moody's said in a report.

Currency traders said market sentiment was dampened by the latest assessment released by the international rating agency.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., on the other hand, said the depreciation was due to the combined effects of several factors.

"First of all, it's probably a correction because the peso has been appreciating over the last several days," Tetangco said. "We have also seen some corporate demand coming from the oil, manufacturing and other sectors."

"The US dollar has also strengthened against other currencies, so I think these factors should also be taken into account," he added.

But he said the country's external position was expected to remain in a surplus, which should thus provide support to the local currency.

"Moody's assessment will just be one of the assessments that will be made available to the market along that of other credit rating agencies," he said.

"What is important to look at is how the markets have responded to the various economic reform measures that have been undertaken... These are indications of more positive sentiment in the market coming from the improved perception that the government continues to work with the private sector to improve fiscal performance," he said.

Coconut oil production to decline in '06, PCA says

By Christine A. Gaylican

COCONUT OIL PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED to decline by 4 percent this year due to the lingering effects of the mild drought last year.

Philippine Coconut Authority administrator Jesus Emmanuel Paras told the INQUIRER in an interview that the initial forecast placed total coconut oil production this year at 2.5 million metric tons.

The level of exports, Paras added, was likely to remain at around 1.1 million tons this year.

This figure is still enough to make the Philippines the world's biggest exporter of coconut oil.

Paras said the country's coconut oil industry has been hounded by production declines since the PCA has no budget to implement the fertilization project it had planned as early as two years ago.

According to data from PCA, production could have doubled to about 4 million metric tons of copra if the planned fertilization program pushed through.

Despite this, coconut oil exports rose 15.8 percent in 2005 to an estimated 1.11 million tons, beating the forecast of 930,000 tons set by the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines and the government's estimate of 980,000 tons for the year.

Production of copra, the raw material from which coconut oil is extracted, climbed 9.88 percent in 2005 from 2004 to 2.612 million tons, data from the PCA showed.

Copra output, however, is expected to fall 5.3 percent to 2.46 million tons this year.

Most of the country's coconut oil output is used in the manufacture of aviation lubricants, cosmetics, soap and margarine.

The bulk of coconut oil exports went to Europe and the United States, Korea, Malaysia and Japan.

In the case of copra meal, the Philippine exports went to Korea, which has been a leading destination for the product since 2000.

BUSINESS *Friday*

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

WHAT'S INSIDE

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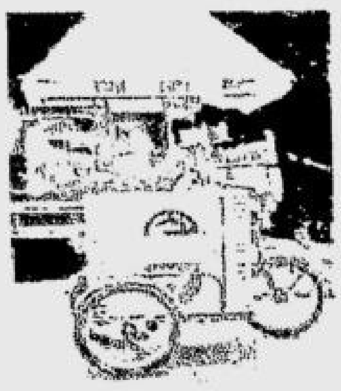

How do you choose what to focus on? /B2-3

AAAA

Garbage makes sunflowers glow /B2-4

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FROM THE PHILIPPINES:.. ALFM PESO BOND FUND

Right target, right offer

AG Rodriguez

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

MANY CHINESE ASTROLOGERS regard 2006, the year of the fire dog or 4704 in the Chinese Hsia calendar, as both uncertain and challenging.

Indeed, beyond calling on feng shui luck, businesses have to rely on sound and sensible marketing decisions. These include targeting the right market, developing the right offer, crafting the right price and making the offer extensively available in areas where the target market converges.

Key to profitability is to make the right offer to the right market at the right time. Following this right target, right offer, right time principle, here are some emergent categories that might likely win or build a critical mass of loyal buyers in the Year of the Yang Red Fire Dog:

Male cosmetics and personal products targeted to urban male metrosexuals. This new urban male genre follow a new par excellence standard of personal grooming a.k.a. personified by soccer star David Beckham. Metrosexuals are simply more vain and narcissistic.

A Datamonitor survey shows that 73 percent of men from Europe and the United States regard spending time in front of the mirror as important or very important as opposed to 72 percent of women with the same response. ACNielsen's Global 2004 report reveals the same trend indicating that the male population has boosted sales of personal care products specially in body cleansing and deodorants.

With the growing rigid, personal grooming practices of today's male generation, the demand should extend to anti-wrinkle cream, bronzing products, foaming wash, hand crème, etc. Not wanting to ignore this possible burgeoning market, brands like L'Oreal Men's Experts, Biersdorf, Shiseido, O'Keefe, among others, are expanding their men's skin care and personal care selections.

Media, housing and lodging products and services targeted to the GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) community. With mainstream media coverage of gays (also called the pink or rainbow market) and lesbians increasing, so does a number of magazines and newspapers dedicated to this demographic.

In the United States alone, US Newswire reports 350 magazines and newspapers serving the GLBT community. Locally, there are at least two major alternative magazines serving the gay market i.e. Icon and Generation Pink. New magazines intended for this market are addressing issues like information and stories reflecting the concerns of same sex parents and their children.

Todd Evans, president and CEO of Rivendell Media Inc., a media buying agency in Mountainside, New Jersey, which specializes in GLBT press, reports that the list of advertisers in the gay press now includes 150 Fortune 500 companies. Absolut Vodka's success in the GLBT market has spawned other categories including tobacco, travel, automobiles, entertainment, telecommunications and media, specially cable television.

Return of the comfort brands. As baby boomers and active silver citizens age gracefully, it is not uncommon for them to seek out brands and products that remind them of their younger years.

Along with nostalgic experience, these comfort brands nonetheless, are careful to update themselves thus, making baby boomers proud, loyal patrons of more contemporary products and services. With revitalized branding, these brands also stretch their appeal to the younger market. This makes baby boomers doubly happy as their support of the brand does not make them feel old or alienated since these brands become mainstream young brands too. Some of the brands that have made a resounding comeback include Volkswagen (car), Dove (cream bar), Happy Feet (wooden sandals), Ace (casual bag). The latter, originally associated with Ace black leather bags used by the previous generation, has relaunched itself with more colors.

In-home entertainment. Filipinos simply love entertainment, music, dance, telenovelas, et.al. but they prefer to enjoy these activities within the confines of their homes along with their family and friends. Thus, in-home entertainment made to fit smaller homes would likely attract the mass market.

An ACNielsen quality of life report indicates a very high incidence of television and audio-video equipment ownership. In many communities, there is higher ownership of television than washing machines and refrigerators. With great passion for entertainment, this means that many Filipino families may have a high propensity to spare cash for possibly updating to an affordable, in-home entertainment.

More savings and investments in real estate, housing and education. In a University of Michigan research by Dean Yang, it was revealed that when the economies of overseas Filipino workers improve they send more money home. These amounts are intended for child schooling, basic housing and investments as well as entrepreneurial activity. What is evident and essential is to make the OFW's family in the Philippines realize the value of savings and investments over consumptive behavior and help align their goals with the overseas Filipino worker's intent.

Home improvements, refurbishings and decorations. As more and more Filipino families become the recipients of Filipino migrants and OFW money, improvements in home living are bound to happen. The home is one of the more evident symbols of an improvement in lifestyle. While OFWs and their families are likely to invest in home improvements, their preferences border on the stylish yet practical home designs. Key is to understand their tastes and preferences and come up with a range suited to their needs.

Health and wellness supplements for the baby boomers and silver citizens. There should be a likely upsurge for health and wellness vitamins and supplements intended to help baby boomers and active silver citizens live a more active and productive lifestyle including maintaining a more active mind and lessening the incidence of senior moments or forgetfulness in their older and twilight years. Thus, pharmaceutical, food manufacturing and nutraceutical firms are rushing to develop more efficient memory pills and supplements, sexual enhancement drugs, combo vitamins to keep a more active lifestyle, etc.

Skills outsourcing. The services sector should not be limited to call centers and medical transcriptions. Digital technology and the Internet make it possible for local firms to offer all sorts of technical soft skills overseas. These could include accounting, architectural designs, software programs, graphic arts and animation work, copy development, etc. Think about it—a local architect may be designing a house to be constructed in Alaska yet the same person has not been to Alaska. On the other hand, the same person gets paid in foreign money via bank transfer for work done locally but executed overseas.

Life skills enhancement. Further education need not be restricted to post-graduate degree programs. Short course programs include enrichment courses like painting and sketching, exotic cooking, music, arts and crafts lessons, etc. Individuals seeking a second career yet passionate and gifted in a hobby or interest can make their hobbies earn for them.

Edutravel. Leisure travel is often limited to sight-seeing and shopping. Because of globalization, people, including travelers are becoming more interested in how other cultures live. Besides tourist landmarks, some tours cover community life, libraries, cemeteries, etc.

Needless to say, marketing to emergent markets and in emergent categories is a daunting task. Yet, being first in the mind of the targeted market at the right time has its rewards. *Feedback at kdeasis@skyinet.net or www.karendeasis.com.*

'Only in collegial competitiveness can we succeed'

AD BUZZ

ON BEHALF of the board, I accept the leadership of 4As. My son has always said that he finds the word "leadership" a mouthful. It's both pompous and boring at the same time. Actually, I beg to disagree. (Another one of the many things my son and I debate about.)

Leadership is fascinating. It's awesome. It's more misunderstood than the present administration. Many crave the power that's incumbent on a leader's position. Many don't have an inkling of what it entails. Many are unprepared for what power does to a leader's value structure. We've seen it proven many times: Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

But there is a simple way that a leader can avert the negative consequence of power. And that is by understanding that power is the gift of the followers to the leader. At any moment, it can be taken away when the leader abuses or misuses the gift of power. A leader is only as successful as the followers. So if any member in this organization is neglected, marginalized or undervalued—it is a failure of leadership.

Our vision is for each member agency to feel the value of being a part of 4As. Our mission is to create significant events that will help in the development of each member agency in areas that matter: creativity, profitability and professionalism.

Let me end by sharing with you another well-kept secret of success. Service-oriented industries are often described as cutthroat, dog-eat-dog, fiercely competitive businesses where only the most ruthless will survive and thrive.

Wrong. Service oriented competitors have to be cooperative and collaborative on many levels—in order to do well. Only in an atmosphere of "collegial competitiveness," an oxymoron and an irony, I know—but I repeat: Only in collegial competitiveness can we succeed.

Consider how the advertising agency business is the most threatened of all the sectors in our industry. An economist even called the ad business a "sunset industry" endangered by obsolescence and development at the same time.

We are faced with clients asking more for less. Networks are impinging on our creative product in the name of additional revenues. The compensation scheme of media-based commissions is under extreme duress. We need to enhance our role as partners to clients and brand champions and stewards. And we need for our clients to acknowledge the value of our product: IDEAS and STRATEGIES. Non-tangible therefore hard to quantify.

So we have big challenges ahead of us. Many roadblocks to negotiate. Many obstacles to hurdle. Together with you, like our distinguished guests Manny Pacquiao and Sheila Coronel—we will prevail.

4As. Let it mean. Aspire. Align. Ascend. Achieve. Thank you. You better believe that we are counting on all of you. *(Acceptance speech of Yoly V. Ong at the 4As Induction)*

4A's officers and board, 2006

Yoly V. Ong, chair; Venus R. Navalta, president; Susan L. Dimacali, VP; Ma. Socorro M. Pitargue, board secretary; Mitos F. Camahort, treasurer; Miguel C. Ramos, corporate controller; Ma. Teresa D. Villanueva, Andres S. Khan, Joey Avellana, directors

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'If they do not have bread ..., sell it at their doorsteps'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

BREAD via pedicab delivery...

...or through a pushcart

FILIPINOS SPEND ABOUT P5 BILlion a year for bread.

Half of this amount is spent on "unbranded" bread, referring to those made by neighborhood bakeries that display their wares in glass cases, usually along the roadsides.

Half is spent on the "branded" ones or those that have branded packages and are usually sold in supermarkets, groceries or convenience shops.

Last year however the market did not grow, according to Gardenia Bakeries (Philippines) Inc. president Simplicio P. Umali Jr. However he says Gardenia posted a 25-percent increase in net sales to P1.2 billion capturing more than half of the branded market.

He says over the past few years, there has been a slight shift to branded bread.

Gardenia's increase in sales can be traced to new product offerings and an expanded distribution network in Luzon and the Visayas.

However Umali says they noted changes in consumer spending and cooked up ways to address this to capture a bigger share of a flat market. Although he says the potential of the local bread market is actually double or P10 billion of the current value.

Umali says they noted that rising commodity prices have prompted consumers to lessen their trips to the big stores.

"They avoid the supermarkets. Before, they would go two times a month. Now it's less than a month and the volumes they purchase have also gone down," he says.

He adds that more and more consumers get their needs from the local *sari-sari* stores.

To address these, Gardenia recently drew up schemes to sell more bread while at the same time develop some entrepreneurs along the way who can sell to the smaller stores and smaller communities.

At present they have 50 territorial distributors which handle about two to three barangays each. Umali says they would like to expand the distributors to 150 within the year, focusing on areas outside Metro Manila such as Laguna and Cavite.

Among the first people they offered the distributorship to were Gardenia employees and their spouses.

The distributors can now hire more sub-distributors whom they can furnish with pedicabs or push carts. The objective of this is to have people going house to house selling Gardenia products—much like the way Yakult ladies do.

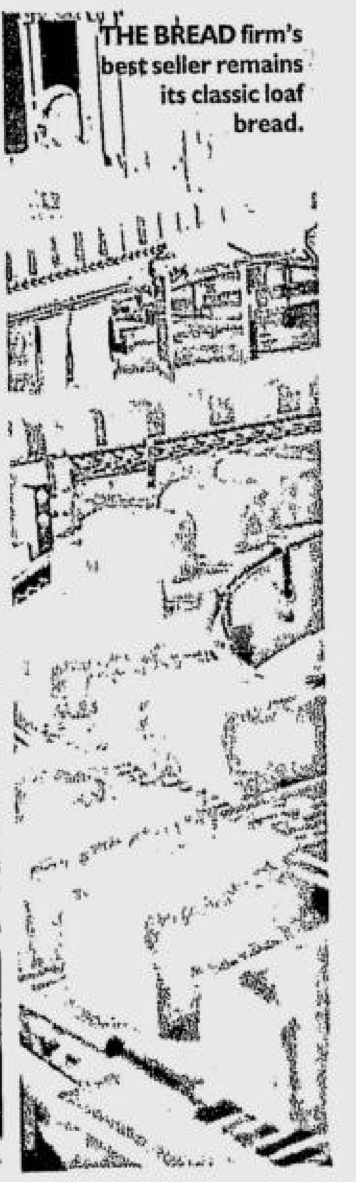
The territorial distributors earn about 15 percent of gross sales. So they have one which sells over P1 million worth of Gardenia products a month and therefore earns about P100,000 net of costs. Costs will include the delivery van and the people.

Umali says they have a smaller distributor who sells about P200,000 worth of bread a month. Net income would be about P10,000.

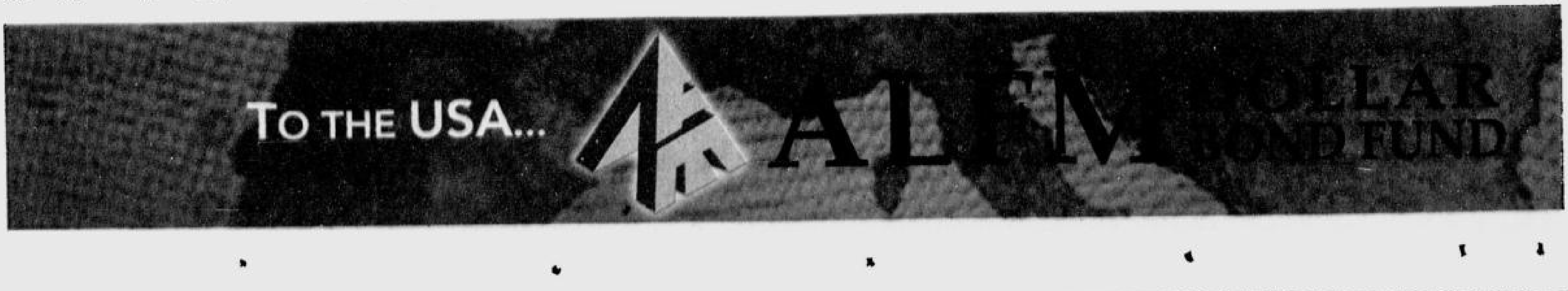
He adds that territorial distributors sell limited but the most saleable products unlike the big stores which sell the whole range of Gardenia products.

Plans are also afoot to tap the *pandesal* market which remains strong despite ups and downs. Gardenia will be selling unbaked pandesal which can be cooked in Gardenia-designed ovens. This will also be sold via the territorial distributors.

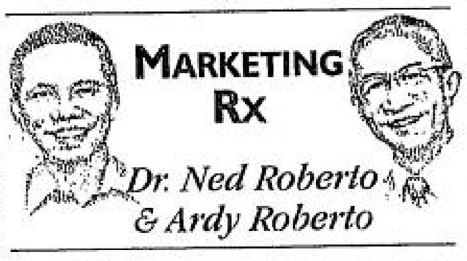
GARDENIA'S GM Jun Umali and marketing and sales manager Nestor Constancia



THE BREAD firm's best seller remains its classic loaf bread.


TO THE USA...

How do you choose what to focus on? (Advice from Al Ries)



Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN finding a niche and finding a focus?

Al Ries: There is no difference in the literal meaning of the words niche and focus. The difference is how people apply the two concepts. Niche usually applies to an existing market, which means someone else already owns it. And it's much more difficult to take business away from a competitor. Furthermore, many companies believe they can appeal to multiple niches. If they do this they lose their focus. Before Volvo focused on "safety", there was no "safety" niche. So people looking for a marketing niche would not have found it.

Q: What should Volvo do now that they own the "safety" concept?

Al Ries: What they shouldn't do is to get into sports cars, which is what they are currently doing. Because that will undermine their safety position. What they should do is make safety more important to the automobile buyer. Volvo only has one percent of the worldwide market for automobiles. It would seem logical, would it not, that more than one percent of auto buyers would be interested in a safer car? The safety concept still has a lot of gas left in it.

Q: How do you choose what to focus on?

Al Ries: First, you want to be first in a category. Remember, not just first in manufacturing the product, but first in the mind of the customer. It doesn't matter if a hundred people are producing it already, if you are first in the mind you will generally win. Second, you want to bet on the future. Pick ideas or concepts that fit in with future trends. In food, for example, you might want to focus on low-calorie products. In clothing, you may want to focus on the younger generation, because they buy more and will be around longer. Third, you want to be the opposite of the leader. If the leader is Coke and focused on the older generation, then Pepsi should focus on the younger generation. If the leader is McDonald's and focused on kids, then Burger King should focus on adults, or grown-up kids.

Q: How can a supermarket chain focus?

A: Generally they can't focus by reducing the number of products. They might focus on service, price, meat, produce, or organic foods. Sometimes you'll find that while customers will buy a lot of items at a market, they often start with the center of the plate decision, meat for example. Sometimes it is best to find your focus by considering how the consumer buys. For example, a shoe store might sell socks, laces, polish, shoe-trees, but does it make sense to focus on any of these products? No, they should focus on shoes. Similarly, a supermarket chain might focus on meat.

Q: What about Kodak, they don't focus on any one product or market?

Al Ries: Kodak bought Sterling drug, including Bayer drugs and pharmaceuticals and in essence became an unfocused company. In the last few years they have gotten out those businesses and focused on imaging products. But there are two types of imaging products, photographic and digital. At the moment, most of their business is photographic. But the future is going to be digital. Kodak is making a serious error by putting their photographic name on their digital products. What they need is a separate name for their digital products.

Q: How is it that Wal-Mart focuses on everything and they are successful?

A: Actually Wal-Mart does have a focus: low price. In other words, they sell everything, but at a lower price than their competitors. Low price is a difficult focus to successfully establish but Wal-Mart has accomplished this feat by using relentless pressure on its suppliers.

Q: Would a company like Starbucks be possible without a branding campaign?

Al Ries: No. Nobody would pay $3.00 for a cup of coffee (or P100 here in the Philippines) unless they knew the brand and thought that it was a superior product.

Here is where the function of branding arises. You could have a clearly superior coffee and charge $3.00 a cup, but if the consumer did not know the brand, they would not think the coffee tastes as good as Starbucks. Perception drives reality. If you believe a product is going to taste better, it will taste better. You can't build a brand with a superior product alone, you also need a superior branding campaign.

Q: Why does a global brand need to keep a local identity?

Al Ries: Think of a brand as a person. Even a global personality like Madonna has to come from somewhere. Madonna is a global brand with an American identity. Mercedes-Benz is a global brand with a German identity. Prada is a global brand with an Italian identity. Coca-Cola is a global brand with an American identity.

In building a global brand, you should keep your local identity and then use that as a springboard to go global. In doing so, however, you have to keep in mind that some local identities don't lend themselves to building global brands in that category. A French beer, for example, could not become a global brand. A French wine, of course, could. The reverse is true of German wine and German beer.

Q: Are there examples of successful co-branding efforts?

Al Ries: The most successful co-branding effort, in our opinion, is the "Intel inside" program. By partnering with virtually all the personal computer manufacturers (with the exception of Apple), Intel has built a very powerful brand.

Co-branding works best when it's an absolute necessity. Without the cooperation of the PC manufacturers, there would have been no way for Intel to make its brand so dominate. (Cooperation that frankly, Intel paid for.)

Our guest columnist, Al Ries, is one of the best known marketing strategists and authors in the world. He will be here in Manila on June 23 to do a one-day marketing conference sponsored by The INQUIRER Executive Seminar Series. Ries is the author of the international best-sellers, Positioning, The 22 Immutable Laws of Marketing, (co-authored with Jack Trout) and recently, The 22 Immutable Laws of Branding. MarketingRx is hosting Al Ries and his marketing advice column twice a week.

If you have any questions for us or for Al Ries send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

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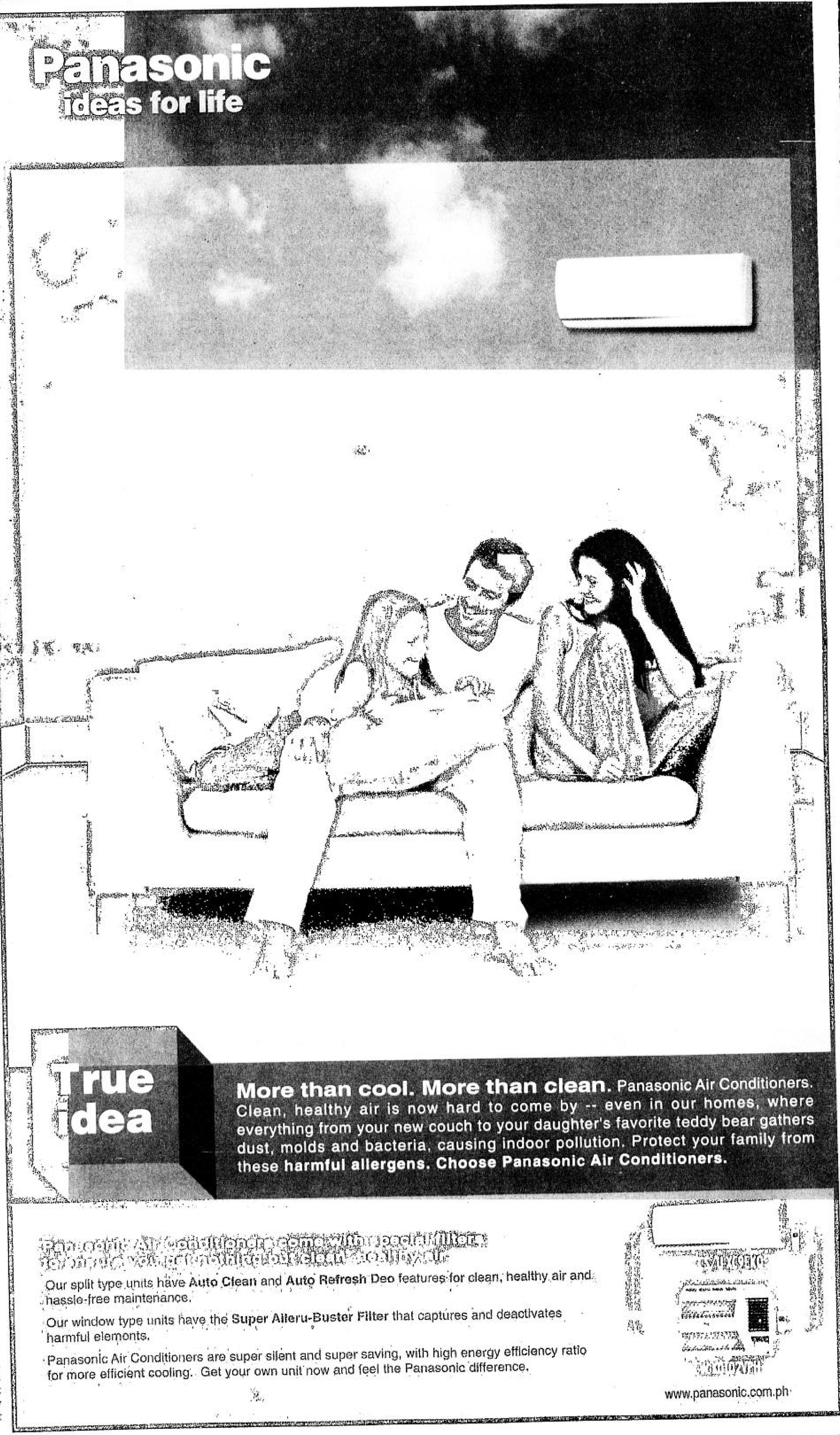

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TO A BIGGER WORLD!

Garbage makes sunflowers glow

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—IT WAS A SCENE straight from a painting by Vincent Van Gogh, as rows of giant sunflowers, its radiant faces following the sun and drooping like tired sunbathers at sunset, sprouted in this Ilocos Sur city.

Two years ago, Vigan established the country's biggest bioreactor to convert its garbage into compost. Today, this rich soil is what makes these sunflowers glow.

"We thought of sunflowers because no one thought of it yet in the Philippines," said Mayor Ferdinand Medina.

The P10-million bioreactor was built in 2002 through a grant from the Agencia Española Cooperacion and can recycle 12 tons of biodegradable materials into six tons of compost daily.

Vigan, which started its recycling program last year, cannot maximize the bioreactor yet as it produces only six to 10 metric tons (MT) of garbage daily, says Glen Concepcion, city environment officer.

Of these, about 52 percent is considered biodegradable. Like most cities that have gone into recycling, Vigan practically gave away the compost to farmers to test it.

Medina says while the demand is not that big, the city decided to come up with a demonstration farm to show that the compost can help transform agriculture in Vigan and neighboring towns.

"We wanted a crop which is different from what we are growing here. We decided on sunflower because of its health and business potentials," Medina says.

"It also helps that sunflowers love the sun and we have plenty of [sunlight] here," he says.

Last year, farmers started sowing sunflower seeds imported from Taiwan in plots near the bioreactor at Sitio Nalasin in Barangay Kabaroan Daya, 8 km from the poblacion.

The three sunflower plots, covering a hectare, grow about 3,000 plants.

"The sunflower is hardy. In three months, they are ready for harvest," Concepcion says.

The leaves and stalks, which are high in nitrogen, are used as mulch (material placed over the soil to control weeds and conserve moisture), Concepcion says.

Medina says sunflower seeds that are taken from the huge flower sell for P80 a kilogram.

He says the city is eyeing to supply pet shops with the seeds.

Eventually, he says they would market the sunflower seeds as a healthy snack, citing studies that showed sunflower seeds have a compound that could reduce cholesterol level, enhance immunity and decrease risk of certain types of cancer.

Concepcion says they are also planning to acquire an extractor to get the very valuable sunflower oil.

DRIED SUN FLOWER
A city environment and natural resources employee gathers dried sunflowers to be processed for animal food like cock fighters at the city's sprawling Solid Waste Management Plant area in Nalasin, Cabaraoan, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

AY **2BU** ○ THURSDAY **FOOD** ○ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

BETSEY Johnson AFP

NY designers put spin on fall fashion

NEW YORK—Halfway through New York Fashion Week, the buzz is that next season will offer clothes that are wearable, fairly modest and simple—except for the occasional metallic outfit.

There have been a lot of daytime suits and shirtdresses for both working women and the ladies who lunch, and sweater coats to wear over them. Black and other dark autumnal colors dominate the palette.

However, no single look or designer has taken off as the must-have for fall.

Monique Lhuillier: Lhuillier's days as a bridal gown designer pay off whenever she goes near lace and tulle,

NY DESIGNERS/ C2

[redacted]

MONIQUE Lhuillier AP

NIKE OUTLET SCORES HIGH AT PASEO DE SANTA ROSA

If Nike says just do it, it meant every word. At least that was how this popular sporting brand made a niche in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. All it did was find a good spot to showcase its quality, markdown-priced shoes and gear. Greenfield City's commercial hub, Paseo De Santa Rosa turned out just perfect.

Says owner Miguel Celdran, " Actually, I looked for a place in the North like Bulacan but I was not able to find a place as great as Paseo De Santa Rosa. So, when a space was offered to me I grabbed it!"

Just Nike

Nike is one among the pioneering outlet stores in Paseo De Santa Rosa. Celdran was only too happy the store easily picked up not only by customers in and around Sta. Rosa but Manila as well, "It was a pleasant surprise really. Initially, we thought we would only be catering to the local market. When Paseo De Santa Rosa suddenly became a shopping destination, it opened our store to a bigger market."

Paving the way for the opening of stores in Alabang and Lipa, Batangas, Celdran was adamant the one in Paseo De Santa Rosa ranks high in sales, "When I opened a store here, it was merely to sell our so-called dated products. It was more like a clearance house. Somehow, it became the most successful outlet store with sales comparable to Manila shops."

Swoosh is it

A store bearing a simple yet distinctive swoosh at the entryway does not need the hype just to get noticed. A lot of local residents and transient shoppers usually make a routine stop here to check out what's available.

Celdran believes this so because it offered a lot of choices, "Most of the goods sold here come from our Manila stores so shoppers can choose from a wide array of footwear and apparel at discounted rates."

Bigger and Better Paseo De Santa Rosa With Paseo De Santa Rosa's current expansion, Celdran feels confident it will create new opportunities not only for Nike but for other brands as well, "I'm very impressed at the way Greenfield Development Corporation is managing Paseo De Santa Rosa. Now that Nike is doing pretty well here, I am looking into opening fashion outlets to carry our brands like United Colors of Benetton, Sisley and Gas jeans.

Celdran is quite optimistic fashion brands will be equally successful, "If the development continues, I'm sure our fashion brand outlets will do extremely well at Paseo De Santa Rosa."

Paseo De Santa Rosa is the retail and commercial component of Greenfield City. It is envisioned to become a town center that provides valued services catering to varying customers' taste and preferences.

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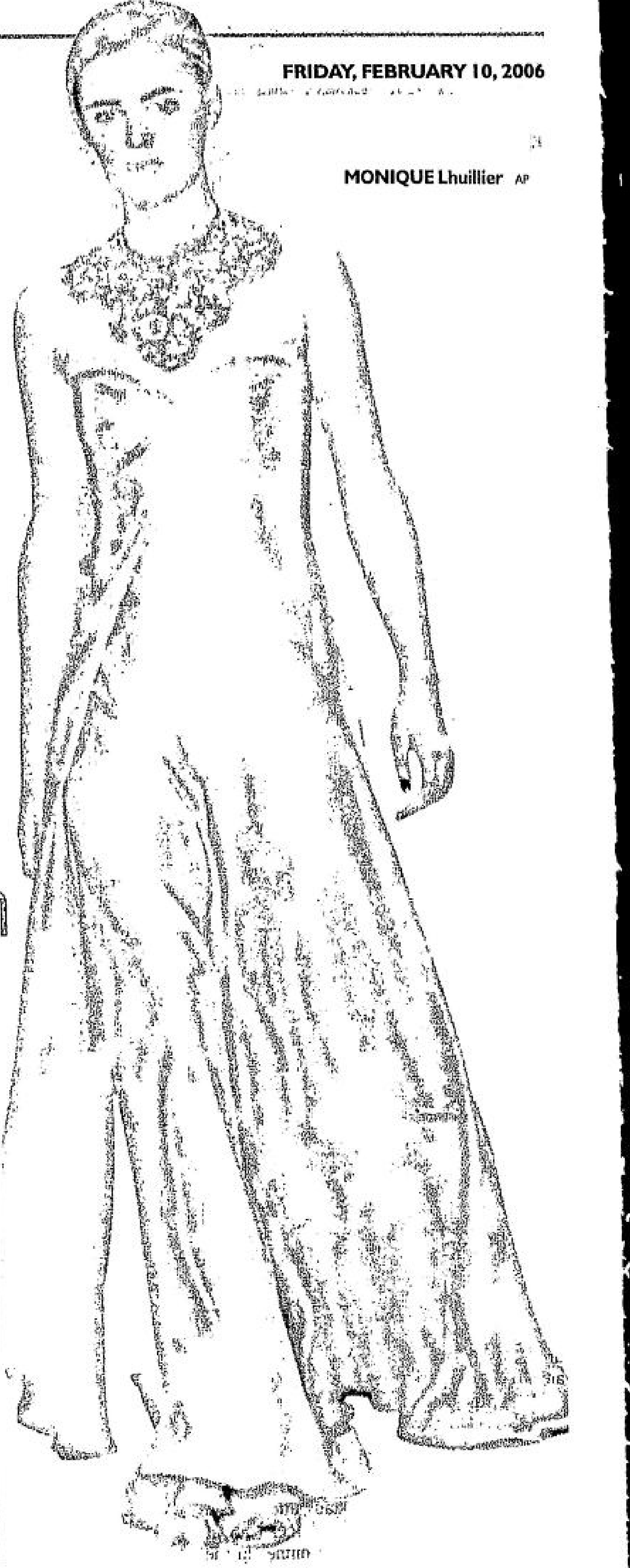
GREENFIELD CITY
GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CAROLINA Herrera AP

MARC Jacobs AFP

OSCAR de la Renta REUTERS


MONIQUE Lhuillier AP

NY designers put spin on fall fashion

Wearable, fairly modest, and simple—but with a little metal and some edge

From page C1

and the red-carpet gowns she previewed Tuesday morning were delicate, feminine and pretty. She alternated shapes between slim seamed sheaths and tufted ball gowns.

But the starlets who wear these dresses need to ward off autumn's chill, and Lhuillier offered them fur capelets, brocade coats and, for the daytime, a salt-and-pepper brocade peacoat.

Marc Jacobs: There was no marching band this time, but Marc Jacobs' show was a crowd-pleaser nonetheless with a fall collection that was more Edie Sedgwick than Grace Kelly.

Jacobs cleverly took some ladylike standbys of his past few seasons and turned them into tough-girl accessories. Dainty tea party gloves became leather, elbow-length gloves; mary janes got a patent-leather makeover and their heels were raised to dizzying heights.

Traditional fall colors and cozy fabrics were punctuated by shimmer and shine. Huge sequin berets and metallic leather boots added bombastic accents to slouchy pants layered with dresses, tiny tank tops and oversize, boxy coats.

Max Azria Collection: This line, formerly known as BCBG Max Azria, is undergoing a transformation as the company tries to elevate the image of the runway clothes beyond cute, breezy dresses and flattering pants.

Azria concentrated on knits—which made great casual cashmere coats and borderline bizarre bloomers. He wasn't the only designer to send bloomers down the runway. In fact, the crowd at the Bryant Park tents probably have seen more bloomers and knickers over the first four days of Fashion Week than they've seen in the last four years.

Azria also offered several pieces that had origami details, which were similar enough to hit on the big-bow trend but different enough to stand out. But there's something to be said for simplicity, and the cashmere turtleneck dresses worn with either tweed or cashmere coats were the most sophisticated outfits in the collection.

Betsey Johnson: The sometimes risque, but always playful Johnson was on her best behavior with this collection.

She offered cute cocktail dresses that surely will be on the high school dance circuit; skirt suits, with miniskirts, of course; and a taffeta trench coat that could go just about anywhere and be worn by just about any woman.

The trench coat, paired with a gold blouse with ruffles around the neck and a black flounce skirt, was one of the show's best outfits. A latte-colored crocheted dress and a boucle suit with candy-colored dots to break up the black background were also standouts.

The hot pants and bloomers that have been far too prevalent at Fashion Week were also on Johnson's runway, but since she's Betsey Johnson, they belonged.

Jill Stuart: Stuart dresses a young crowd, and the Goth look she offered should be right up their alley. Models wore long, black Matrix-like dresses, the best being a satin version with a V neck and high waist.

The runway wasn't all somber, though. A winter white nubby coat and a silver lame all-over pleated gown were winners. Stuart then switched modes and sent out a delicate chiffon dress with flutter sleeves in an abstract blue floral print.

Oscar de la Renta: De la Renta's fall collection confirms some of the emerging trends. His runway had metallic fabrics, three-quarter sleeve tops and jackets worn with long gloves, belted jackets, sweater coats and both skinny cigarette pants and wide-leg cuffed ones. Somehow, though, everything looks a little different when done at De la Renta's direction. They're classier and more luxurious.

De la Renta traditionally does great coats and embroideries. This time he combined those skills into an outstanding brown embroidered cashmere coat with pony skin that was paired with a green leather embroidered skirt.

But De la Renta's other specialty is evening wear, and while a black sheer tulle dress with embroidered polka dots was pretty, most of his gowns and cocktail dresses with defined waists and voluminous skirts looked stiff and of another time and place. A better black-tie look was a black cashmere jacket with embroidered rosettes, a black sequined T-shirt and skinny black flannel pants.

Carolina Herrera: Herrera said she was inspired by the late '50s, but many of the outfits were reminiscent of the sportswear of the '70s, when American ready-to-wear first put its stamp on the world.

She sent several suits down the runway. The skirt suits, in a rust plaid, were fitted and to the knee; the pants had wide cuffed legs.

A new look for fall is fur that is sheared so close it looks like soft velvet. Herrera used that technique for the sleeves on a black and brown wool dress that was otherwise simple—and very sophisticated.

Herrera matched coats with cocktail dresses to create a complete outfit, and the chocolate broadtail coat with a turquoise swirl print lining with a pleated strapless dress in the same fabric was a standout. *AP*

JILL Stuart AFP

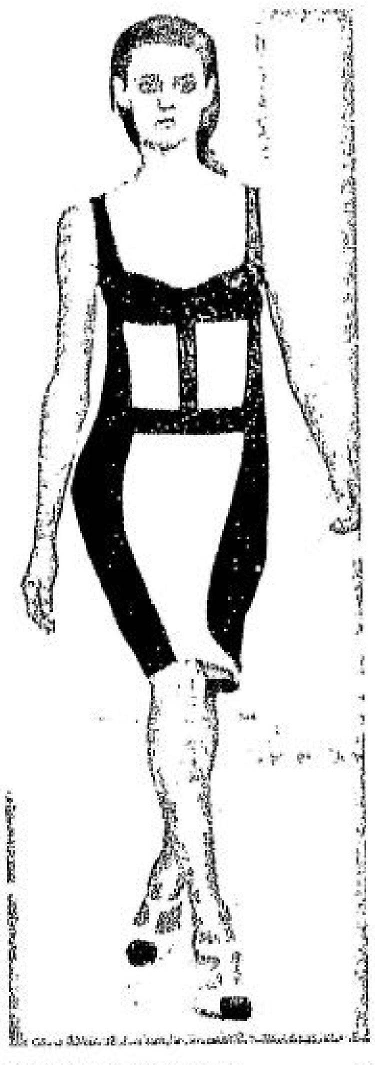
MARC Jacobs AFP

BETSEY Johnson AP

NARCISO Rodriguez AP

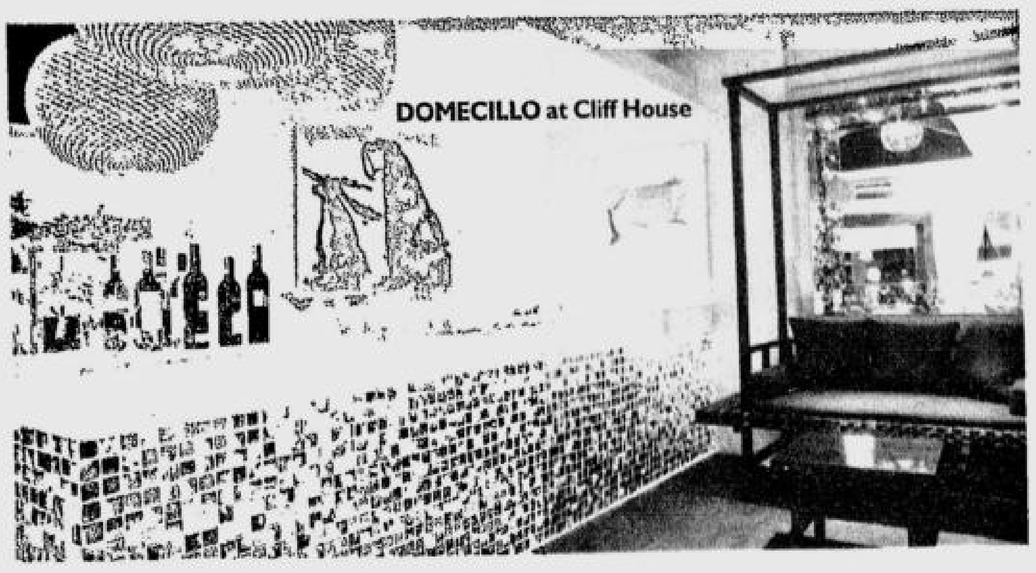
BCBG Max Azria AFP

BCBG Max Azria AP


NARCISO Rodriguez AP

MARC Jacobs AFP

CAROLINA Herrera AFP



DOMECILLO at Cliff House

In a candlelit cave, under the stars

From page C4

In the mode of CloseUp's Lovapalooza's "grand expressions" of love, this experience our staff had sometime last year is one for the books.

We were invited to what we thought would be an ordinary junket to Club Noah Isabelle in Palawan, until standing on its docks, waiting it out while the rest of my staff snorkeled, I espied **Ed Quimson**—that lovable rotund and hefty silhouette of his—on the horizon, standing on the boat cruising slowly toward us. I knew right then he was there to pull off some surprise in the Club Noah kitchen.

The next day, we were told to meet at the docks again way before sunset because we were supposed to meet the Palawan governor. As we got onto the boat, we knew the invitation was just a ruse. As the twilight gave way to night, we sailed under a burst of stars, our destination still unrevealed to us by Club Noah's PR director, **Ito Tuason.**

Cave cocktails

Then the boat pulled toward a cave. As we tottered into the cave, we were greeted by an incredible sight. Hundreds of candles were propped in the interior of the cave, giving it a warm romantic glow enhanced only by the starlit sky visible through the opening of the cave overhead, like an atrium. Up ahead flickered dozens of these candles formed into a heart.

It was a scene straight out of the "Phantom of the Opera," minus the tragedy. It was to be a unique cocktail experience, complete with wine and guitar music.

Chef Ed prepared appetizers—the prelude to dinner of tartare of tuna and smoked fish, chicken soup, lobster thermidor spring rolls with lobster sauce and fillet mignon.

It took the Club Noah staff hours to light up the cave with candles for cocktails, and Chef Ed the whole day to prepare the dinner back at Club Noah. We didn't have the dinner in the cave, only the lingering cocktails and guitar music which touched even my jaded staff.

According to Ito, Club Noah had done this special candlelit cocktails in the cave once or twice. Chef Ed flies occasionally to Club Noah to prepare special gourmet dinners for guests.

Now, if you really want to give your Palawan weekend a twist, dining in the candlelit cave, under the stars, should be incomparable.

Other suggestions

Closer to home, you'll find Chef Ed's dishes at the new Teak Bistro at Rockwell—a menu he designed with **Heny Sison**, **Jane Paredes**, **Jill Sandique** and **Dundee Magallanes**. Try the pizzas or the lamb curry and rice dish or the lamb shank *adobo*. (More on this next time.)

CHEF Ed Quimson at Club Noah

Another option is closer to our harried city life—the Cliffhouse in Tagaytay.

We were surprised to learn there are now 60 restaurants along the ridge. The Cliffhouse alone has two restos, a quaint home store, a pastry shop, and art galleries. It has **Paul Huang's** Fireside Grill, and **Mark** and **Linda Floro's** Italian resto Buon Giorno; you can take your pick between Paul's salads, steaks and salmon dishes, or Buon Giorno's Italian fare.

Paul was a marketing executive for 20 years who was diagnosed with brain tumor, which he fortunately survived. He then decided to seek a second career through his old passion—cooking. You should try his Norwegian salmon.

What you'd like to try is the home store Domecillo's wine gallery and private nook. Domecillo's **Rene Alcala** has set aside a cozy corner for a couple or more guests who like to sip wine and have a light meal. Again, this should be a Valentine evening away from the ordinary.

A few steps away are the exquisite furniture, home décor and fashion accessories of Domecillo. More than a Valentine meal, I find irresistible Domecillo's award-winning metal votive holders for the wall, the mirror with mother-of-pearl edge, and **Rogy Panganiban's** one-of-a-kind antique beads jewelry.

Not known to many, before bead and vintage jewelry became the vogue, Rogy, in the early '90s, was already handcrafting necklaces and bracelets from his collection of antique beads and stones. One day yet we shall coerce him into a one-man exhibit.

Now I don't mind driving to Tagaytay for such Domecillo finds. Unfortunately for you, guys, other girls won't mind running into such shopping finds on V-Day—accidentally.

Passions
at the Philippine Plaza

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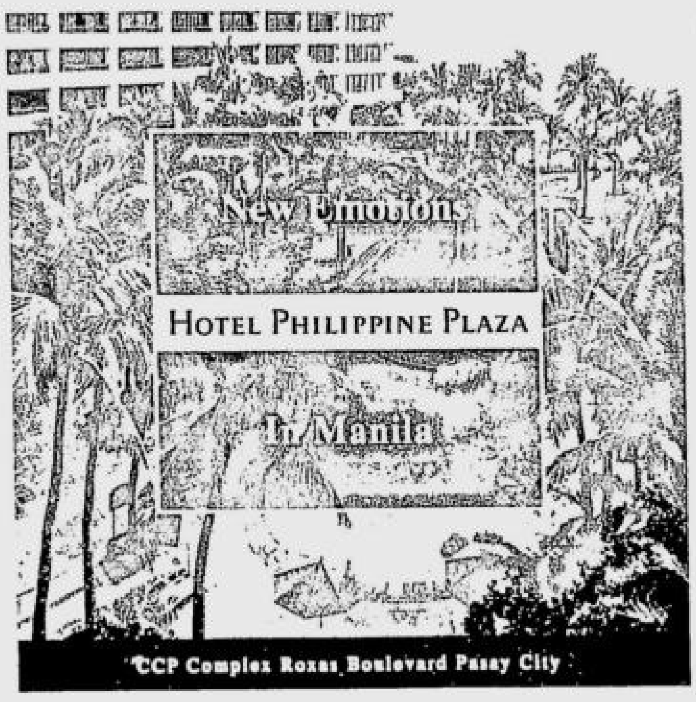
- Breakfast for 2 persons
- 20% off on massage
- 20% off on dinner at Café Plaza and Poolside Barbecue
- 50% off bounce back voucher on rooms only, on the next night or next visit until March

Aphrodite's Menu

Café Plaza Too • Feb 14
Savor Aphrodite's set menu to keep the fires going or choose from a bountiful buffet of Valentine temptations. Diners get white and dark pralines. A musical trio serenades couples.

Love and Laughter

Stete Pecados Live
February 14 8:30pm
Lively bands Flipside and Ministix entertain you with a beautiful blend of songs and gags.



New Emotions
HOTEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA
In Manila
CCP Complex Roxas Boulevard Pasay City

My First Love

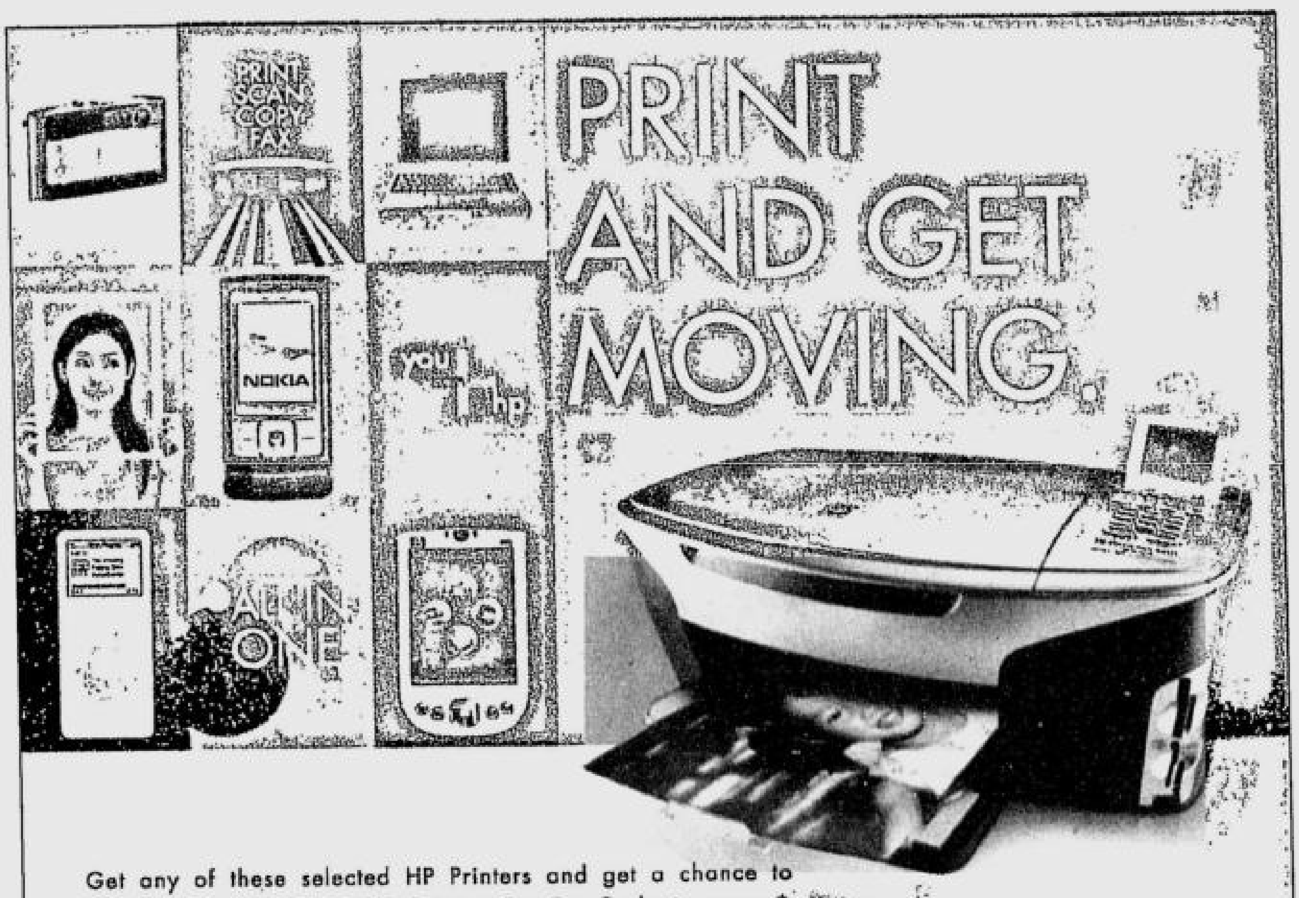
Valentine Family Brunch

Café Plaza Too • Feb 12
Treat the whole family to a hearty brunch with surprises and delights for kids including free day use of the pool. Bring lola, lolo and the cousins for one great Valentine bonding.

Three couples get a chance to win a dinner for two at the most romantic spot of the hotel, the "Balinese Baruga Hut" when dining on Feb. 14, 2006.

Please call 551-5555 ext. 1531 for restaurant reservations and ext. 1991-1993 for room reservations or e-mail: Room.Reservations@hotelphilplaza.com

ACCOR ► A new perspective on our Hotels and Services



Get any of these selected HP Printers and get a chance to win gadgets galore in HP Printer Go Go Gadgets promo*. Print documents even without a PC, scan, copy, power fax and even print photos in one compact machine with the HP Photosmart 2610 All-in-One. Loaded with brilliant Vivera Inks, you're sure to get larger than life pictures from this amazing All-in-One. And since it comes with HP's easy home network solutions, you can enjoy the benefits of a network printer in no time at all! Plus, get a chance to win a Compaq Presario M2215 Notebook, HP iPAQ rx1950 Pocket PC, Nokia 6270 cellphone, Apple iPOD Nano 2GB or a Sony Digital Camera T-5 for every purchase of selected HP Printers* from December 21, 2005 to February 28, 2006.

P16,190 | HP PHOTOSMART 2610 ALL-IN-ONE
- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Up to 4800-optimised dpi colour printing[1]
- Print and copy at up to 30 ppm (black) or 20ppm (colour)[2]
- 2.5" (6.35cm) LCD screen colour graphics display
- Multi-slot memory card reader[3]
- Built-in Ethernet network capability
Free bluetooth adapter worth P2,500

P8,990 | HP OFFICEJET 4255 ALL-IN-ONE
- Printer, scanner, copier, phone and fax
- Up to 4800 optimised dpi colour printing[1]
- Print and copy up to 17 ppm (black) or 12ppm (colour)[5]
- A6 borderless (w/ tab) printing & copying on photopapers

P10,090 | HP OFFICEJET 5610 ALL-IN-ONE
- Printer scanner copier fax
- Up to 4800-optimised dpi colour printing[1] and laser quality text
- Print and copy at up to 20 ppm (black) or 13ppm (colour)[5]
- 2 line text LCD screen

P19,590 | HP PHOTOSMART 3110 ALL-IN-ONE
- Printer scanner, copier, fax
- Up to 4800 optimised dpi colour printing[1]
- print and copy at up to 32 ppm (black) or 31 ppm (colour)[2]
- 2.5" (6.35cm) LCD screen colour graphics display
- Direct photo printing - pictbridge, bluetooth and memory card slots[4]

P5,990 | HP PHOTOSMART 7450 PHOTO PRINTER
- VERSATILE Everyday Printer - documents / photo printing
- Fast printing speed at 18ppm black or 14ppm colour[5]
- 4800 optimised dpi colour printing[1]
- multi slot memory card reader[3]
- [illegible]

P8,590 | HP BUSINESS INKJET 1000 PRINTER
- Breakthrough productivity and brilliant results with low cost per page black text printing
- Top quality and speed comparable to a laser printer
- Up to 22ppm (black) or 18ppm (colour)
- 4 individual ink tanks and long life printheads
- Up to 4800 x 1200 optimised dpi colour printing[1]

P11,890 | HP DESKJET 1280 PRINTER
- Supports A3 paper size color printing
- 14ppm black, 11 ppm color[7]
- HP PhotoRet 3 enhanced color layering technology
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*See posters and flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4358, series of 2005

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Catch her fancy and get hold of that elusive "yes" with a Haute French Dinner at the RAPHAEL Cafe.
Passionate Indulgences
February 11-14
6:00 PM – 10:30 PM
RAPHAEL
DINE & GET A CHANCE TO WIN EXCITING PRIZES!

PASSIONATE INDULGENCES
For reservations, call RAPHAEL Cafe at 633-7111 local 7416.

LUKE FOR LOVE
For ticket inquiries call BAR ONE at 633-7111 local 7418.

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Luke for Love

Soul singer **Luke Mejares** croons through classics loaded with nostalgia from ballads to R & B, this season of hearts.

February 14, 2006 • 9:00 pm 'til late.

bar one
MAGIC 89.9
Radio partner

CANDLELIT cocktails at the North Cave near Club Noah

In a candlelit cave, under the stars

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

IN THE PAST YEAR, EACH morning on my way to work, I've gotten used to seeing the "Wowowee" line snake around our office building at ABS. It was always there. If it wasn't, that meant I was late for work, for the line would thin out by 10. If the line was still long and thick, it meant I was coming early.

And so the line became a time indicator of my daily routine. It was predictable and orderly, with the ambulance positioned across. But more than that, the line, I felt then, was like a tape measure of the hard times: the day it got shorter would be the day people had less use for the luck the show promised. But the line never grew shorter. In fact, it exploded last week.

When it did, it struck right into the heart. The past week I've seen officemates at ABS volunteering to spend their day in funeral parlors and hospitals—a task they're not professionally equipped to do, but which they continue to do nonetheless. (I couldn't join them simply because I've been sick.)

Never had a February, in my midlife book at least, stand so much for collective pain. But years from now, when we look back on this time, we hope we will also remember how inexhaustible the resource from within ourselves had been.

Rajo's V-Day

But then, I digress from my assigned turf—lifestyle. Now unless you're **Rajo Laurel**, who has his nose up V-Day and who, I presume, is showing such cool immunity to romance by hosting this Saturday a Valentine's party, I trust that you want to be sucked into the commercial tide of romance. How do you spend it? Our suggestion:

IN A CANDLELIT/ C3

PROMO MECHANICS:

FOR TECHNOMARINE WATCH PURCHASES:

1. For every watch you buy at a participating TechnoMarine store between the promo period of February 1 to April 30, 2006 you are entitled to TechnoMarine Eyewear Gift Certificate worth 10% of the 15% discounted watch price rounded to the nearest 500.

2. The TechnoMarine Eyewear gift certificates may only be claimed at the place of purchase. The client must present an original TechnoMarine Watch sales invoice to claim the TechnoMarine Eyewear Gift Certificates. The redemption expiry date is one year from the date of claiming. Deadline for claiming Gift Certificates is June 30, 2006. Any transaction using TechnoMarine Gift Certificates as payment whether partial or full cannot merit additional gift certificates.

3. A client may use his TechnoMarine Eyewear Gift Certificates on the maximum 10% discounted TechnoMarine Eyewear price. No change will be given for any excess amount of the gift certificate. The gift certificates are not convertible to cash.

FOR TECHNOMARINE EYEWEAR PURCHASES:

1. For every TechnoMarine Eyewear you buy at a participating TechnoMarine store between the promo period of February 1 to April 30, 2006 you are entitled to TechnoMarine Watch Gift Certificates worth 20% of the standard 10% discounted eyewear price rounded to the nearest 500.

2. The TechnoMarine Watch gift certificates may only be claimed at the place of purchase. The client must present an original TechnoMarine Eyewear sales invoice to claim the TechnoMarine Watch Gift Certificates. The redemption expiry dates of each gift certificate is one year from the date of claiming. Deadline for claiming Gift Certificates is June 30, 2006. Any transaction using TechnoMarine Gift Certificates as payment, whether partial or full, cannot merit additional gift certificates.

3. A client may use the TechnoMarine Watch Gift Certificates on the maximum 15% discounted TechnoMarine watch price. No change will be given for any excess amount of the gift certificates. The gift certificates are not convertible to cash.

PARTICIPATING STORES:

Redemption Center for TechnoMarine Watches:

TechnoMarine Flagship Store located at Ground Floor Greenbelt 3 (Tel. No. 757-3976)
TechnoMarine Boutique 2nd Floor Building A SM Megamall (Tel. No. 6317491)
Rafael Jewellery 2nd Level Shangri-La Plaza Mall (Tel. No. 6333399)
Rafael Jewellery Mezzanine Level Makati Shangri-La Hotel (Tel. No. 8133501)
My Diamond 2nd Floor Glorietta 4 (Tel. No. 757-1089)
My Diamond Upper Ground Level Gateway Mall Araneta Center (Tel. No. 9124013)
My Tempo Upper Ground Floor Main Building SM City North Edsa (Tel. No. 9277620)
Time Plus 7 Ground Floor Greenhills Theater Mall (Tel. No. 7217868)
Washington Rockwell R1 Level Powerplant Mall (Tel. No. 8982288)

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Rafael Jewellery Mezzanine Level Makati Shangri-La Hotel (Tel. No. 8133501)
My Diamond 2nd Floor Glorietta 4 (Tel. No. 757-1089)
My Diamond Upper Ground Level Gateway Mall Araneta Center (Tel. No. 9124013)
My Tempo Upper Ground Floor Main Building SM City North Edsa (Tel. No. 9277620)
Sarabia Optical Alabang Town Center Muntinlupa
Sarabia Optical Greenbelt Mall Ayala Center Makati City
Sarabia Optical Glorietta Mall Ayala Center Makati City
Sabater Pascual Optical Robinsons Galleria EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave. Pasig City
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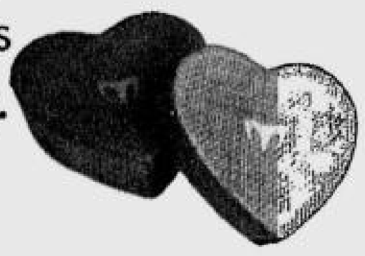
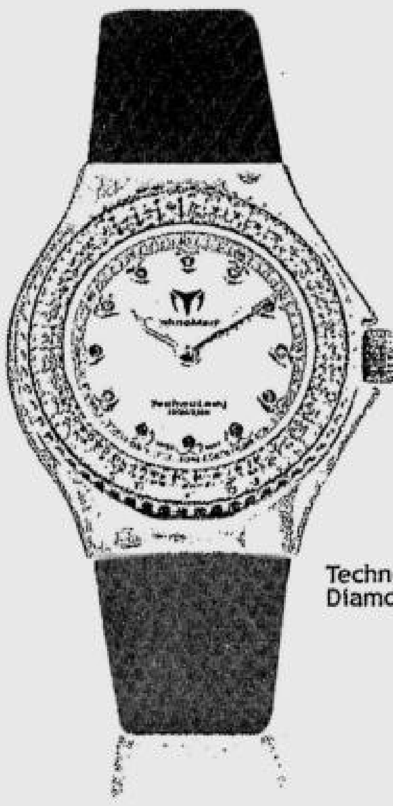
Sabater Pascual Optical Robinsons Place Manila (M. Adriatico St.) Metro Manila
Sabater Pascual Optical Festival Mall Filinvest Corporate City Alabang Muntinlupa

Your sweetheart is precious: TechnoMarine promises the gift of time this Valentine's day.





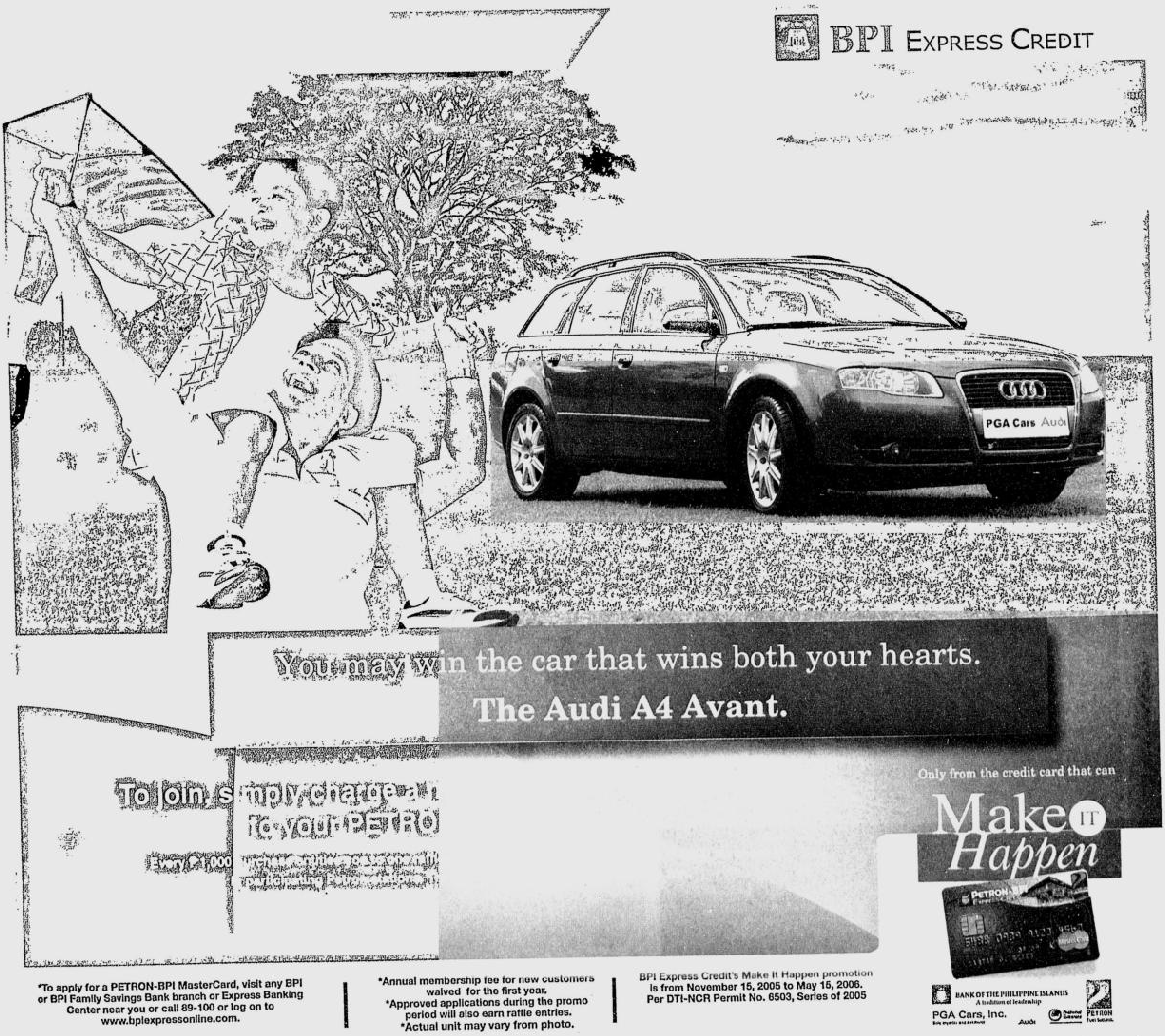
TechnoLady Diamond Heart

TechnoMarine GENÈVE

February 1- -April 30, 2006

See posters and print ads for details. PER DTI-NCR # 0595, Series of 2006.

BPI EXPRESS CREDIT



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*Annual membership fee for new customers waived for the first year.
*Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries.
*Actual unit may vary from photo.

BPI Express Credit's Make It Happen promotion is from November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6503, Series of 2005

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Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

PEARL of the Pacific's royals. Marilou Tirol and husband Greg Sanson, with brilliant Rita Sanson

GINA Tambunting Roxas,
Fernando Dorneles and Marta Roxas

MARIANNE Uy, husband Noel Oñate, Asian Spirit CEO; and their son Paolo

Fireworks over Boracay

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE COUNTDOWN BEGAN for 2006 at the most luscious pearl in Boracay, the Pearl of Pacific Resort and Spa, which gets better and better every year, *palanggas*.

Without a doubt, the Pearl has the best and most fabulous fireworks display in the entire beachfront strip. It even puts to shame the fabulous fireworks display at the Cannes festival.

The other resorts and all their guests had the advantage of having an extra-cool free show with the fireworks display of the Pearl.

The *trés* hospitable owners of the Pearl, **Greg Sanson** and **Marilou Tirol-Sanson**, and their brilliant workaholic daughter, **Rita** (who is at the helm of the resort), proved again that the Pearl's biggest attraction was having the best sky show in the island.

Joining the Sansons from Iloilo were Greg's brother **George**, with wife **Beth**, and children—San Francisco-based **Liezel** and top golfer **Jared**.

Even the popular **Father Boyd** had a New Year blast after celebrating the Mass at Pearl's gorgeous chapel in the forest.

There were many foreign guests who jetted in from as far as freezing cold Turkey, Italy, Switzerland and Germany. They were all spellbound over how New Year was celebrated on this enchanting island in the sun, *palanggas*.

Jetting in from New York every year was internationally renowned chef of the New York Restaurant School, **Lorrie Reynoso**, who was joined by her close pal, Rodge

FIREWORKS/ D2

GRAND TOURS of 2006
17-19 Feb. BANAUE TOUR w/ SAGADA
(w/Bontoc, rice terraces viewpts, guihob natural pool,+more!)
23-26 Feb. CAGAYAN VALLEY & ILOCOS REGION
(w/Isabela,Tuguegarao,Aparri,Pagudpud,Laoag & Vigan +more!)
03-05 Mar. BICOLANDIA EXPERIENCE w/Donsol
(w/Naga,Tiwi,Albay Mt.Mayon,+Whale watching +more!)
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HOLY WEEK TOURS available in Northen Luzon
Other tours: PALAWAN, BOHOL & CEBU, BATANES ISLAND
For inquiries & reservations call: ENGRANDE TRAVEL PHILS.
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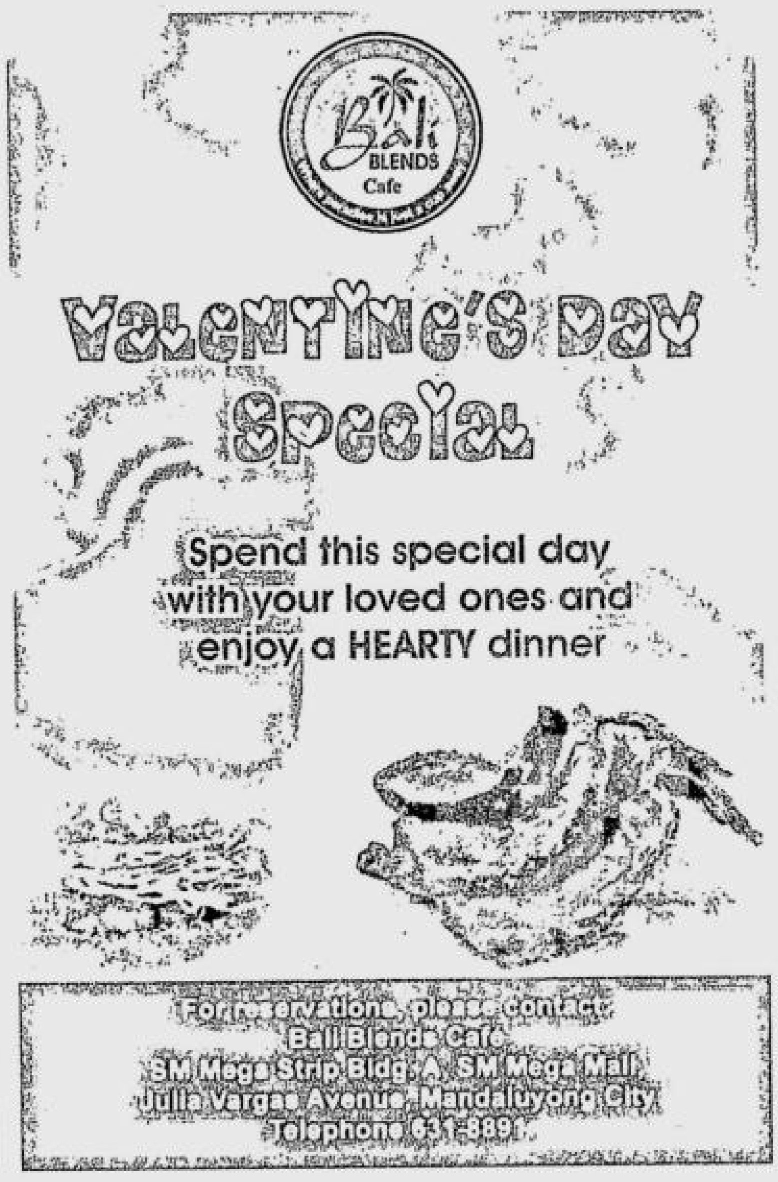

Bali BLENDS Cafe
VALENTINE'S DAY Special
Spend this special day with your loved ones and enjoy a HEARTY dinner
For reservations, please contact
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SM Mega Strip Bldg. A, SM Mega Mall
Julia Vargas Avenue Mandaluyong City
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0351 Series of 2006

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as low as ₱89,000 only

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MODEL	SRP	LOW DOWNPAYMENT							LOW MONTHLY
		DOWNPAYMENT	12	18	24	36	48	60	@50% DP/ 60 mos
Aveo 1.5 M/T*	570,000	69,000	44,605	30,566	23,702	16,868	13,513	11,774	6,698
Aveo 1.5 A/T	610,000	79,000	47,275	32,395	25,121	17,878	14,322	12,479	7,168
Optra 1.6 L M/T	650,000	89,000	49,946	34,225	26,541	18,888	15,131	13,185	7,638
Optra 1.6 L A/T	696,000	89,000	54,042	37,032	28,717	20,436	16,372	14,266	8,179
Optra 1.6 LS M/T	724,000	89,000	56,535	38,740	30,042	21,379	17,127	14,924	8,508
Optra 1.6 LS A/T	770,000	89,000	60,630	41,546	32,218	22,928	18,367	16,005	9,048

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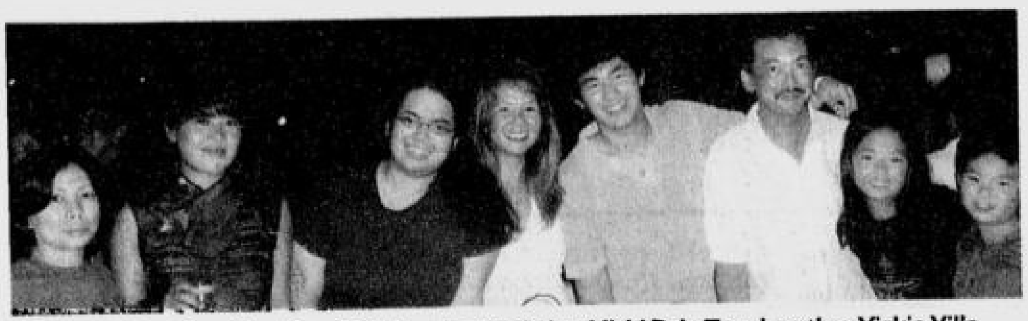
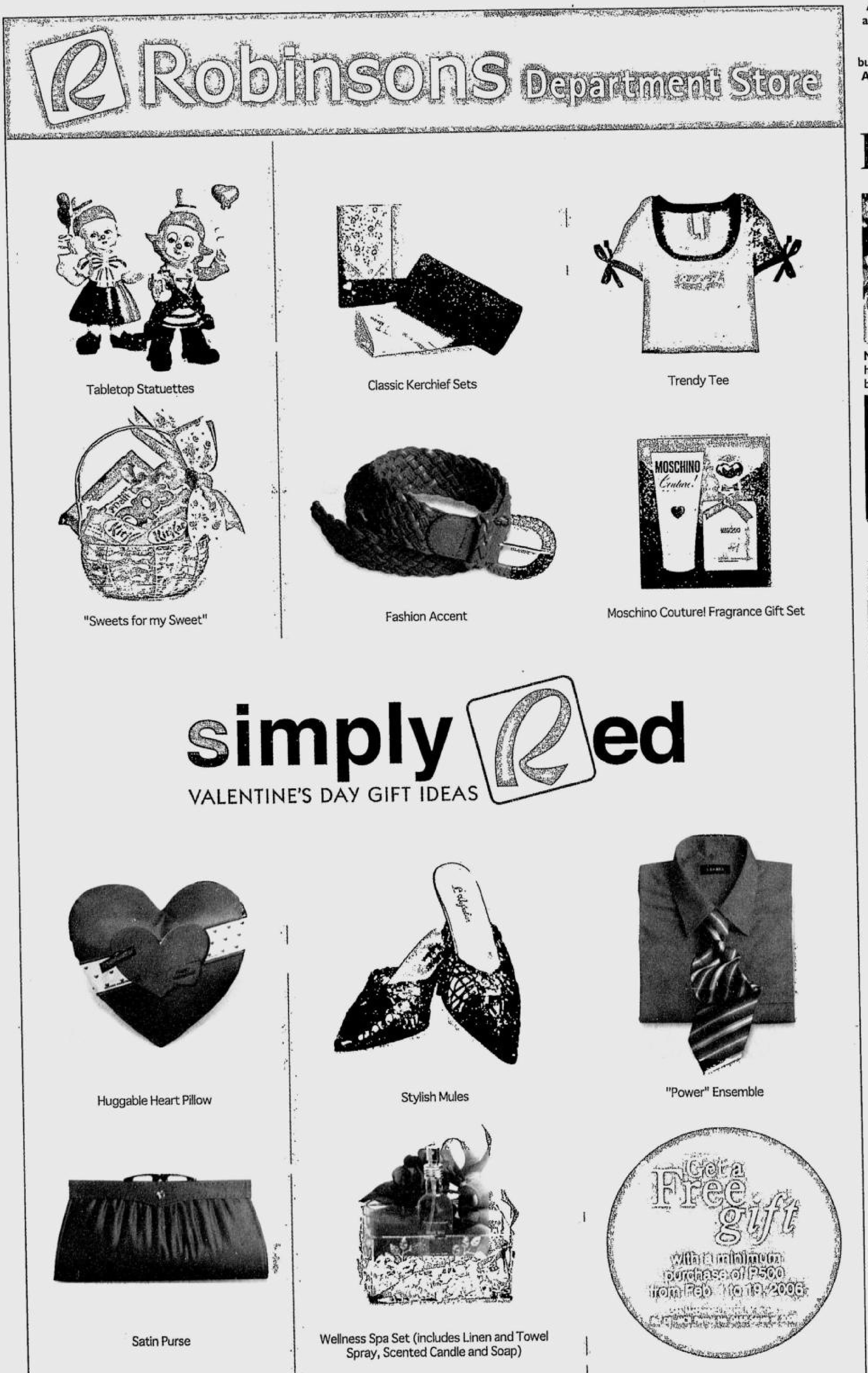


BORACAY for New Year. Yaya Betchay, Joanne Lobo, Mishi P. de T and mother Vickie Villa Perez de Tagle with Gaston V. Perez de Tagle; business magnate Peng Perez de Tagle with kids Sonsoles and Raphael

BOUFFARD blondes. Elena B. Arias and daughter Samantha, Elsa Bouffard and daughter Vannessa Flynn with husband, English businessman Dudley Flynn, visiting from London

DIPLOMATIC SET. Pablo Garcia Morera, Javier Escat, Aurora Lapus Sagaz, Marilou Garcia Morera, Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz and Sandra Escat

SANSONS from San Francisco. George, Jared, Leizel and Beth



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Trendy Tee

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Fashion Accent

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Stylish Mules

"Power" Ensemble

Satin Purse

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Robinsons Galleria Flagship Store
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TOP eventologist Louie Cruz, with Steve, Ana Zafir and baby

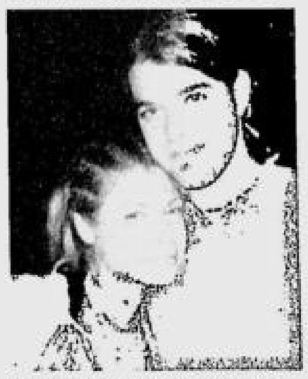
BEAUTIFUL women. Carol Masibay, Vicky Zubiri and Mindy Barredo Perez Rubio

THE TENGCOS. Gorgeous Amanda and mom Carla Reyes, businessman Al Tengco and son Sandro

Fireworks ov

MARICRIS Cardenas and husband, polo player and businessman Iñigo Zobel

INSULAR Life chair Ting Ayllon and wife, top golfer Annie Reyes Ayllon



PINKY Amador with her new love, Antoine

BUNNY Atayde and Visions and Expressions' Christina Atayde

ARCHITECT Anton Mendoza, anti-breast cancer crusader Sigalit Djemal, fun Nicole Ortiga, and beautiful couple Johnny Velasquez and Maripi Muscat

FUTURE beauties. Cousins Paloma Urquijo, Bianca Zobel, Mariana Zobel, Paola Zobel, Natalia Zobel and Sofia Soriano

HEAVENLY BODY
Bianca King, one of the hottest teen stars in show bus
endorser for the Bench Body and Her Bench lines, by
marketing/advertising director; Arnold Vegafria, ALV
CEO and president. King, who plays Aviona in the GM
QTV-11's "3R", a show that tackles women's issues.
FHM magazine's September 2005 issue, and was in th
blockbuster, "Ako Legal Wife." She also plays Richard
"I Will Always Love You." She will next star in Mark M

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

HOT twosome Pam Saguin and Joel Luciano

SUPER PALS. Carlos Soriano and wife Rocio

CLOSE-KNIT *famille*. Gabbie and dad Choy Cojuangco with wife Marissa

DING Pastrana of Circuit Asia

BONETTE Balacano

GOODBYE 2005, hello 2006! Jeanne Delfour, *moi*, Rosanna Perez Rubio and sister Vanessa

BEA Zubiri and husband Scott Bannon, newlyweds Audrey Tan and Rep. Miguel Zubiri

MAGNATES. Ayala's Jaime Augusto Zobel, Sabine Aboitiz and Konkoy Tuason

BEAUTIFUL FAMILLE. Gina Tabuena Godinez flanked by daughters Sam and Alex

er Boracay

From page D1

Panganiban. Both hooked up with Wolfgang Bierlein, hotshot of [illegible], who flew in from Munich after a five-year absence from Manille's hot trendy scene, dahlings.

Ding Pastrana of Circuit Asia made an extra effort to do last-minute booking for his pals, Tony Hernandez, Rolan Cublillas and Peter Metzinger, so that they could attend this unforgettable affair.

Ding is definitely the person to watch for theme parties after the unforgettable Halak-Hakan parties, which up to the present have not been duplicated.

Speaking of Halak-Hakan, Louie Cruz was seen wrapped around the arms of Sandro Rieta at the strike of 12.

Pam Saguin, Bonette Balacano, Evie Guevara, who was with daughters Ivana and Taty, strongly attempted to resist the excellently prepared dinner menu because they were figure-conscious. But in the end, they failed. "Heck, it's New Year's, why not?" Yeah, go for it, gals.

The fab Marissa [illegible] of the awesome Rage Band belted out songs that made the guests dance while sparkles swirled in the air. Sold Out Band alternated all throughout the night. Rica Arambulo entertained Pearl's guests with her self-composed cool songs, *palanggas*.

A skip and a hop away at Waling-Waling was the dancing crowd headed by Gov. Joe Zubiri of Bukidnon and his *alta*-glam wife, Vicky Fernandez, as well as Gov. Bong Bong Marcos of Laoag, Ilocos, with his wife Liza Araneta and their three good-looking sons.

Then there was the glam set that stayed at Boracay's newest "in" resort, simply called Asya, where the owner Choy Cojuangco, and his wife, Marissa [illegible], entertained their hotel guests like Sabin Aboitiz and his wife, Malacañang Social Sec. Bettina Araneta A.; Pedro Roxas with his wife, Gina Tambunting, and their guests from Spain.

Meanwhile, dashing Jaime Augusto Zobel and his wife, beautiful Lizzie Eder Z., entertained Diane E. [illegible], Lizzie's sister, and other guests who all flew in from Columbia.

As in the past years, the Ati Choir group performed for the guests, who all gladly gave cash donations for the building of more classrooms and other school facilities for these young, talented singers.

Naturellement, there were the Floirendos, the Perez Rubios, the Oñates, and the Sorianos (Carlos and his wife Rocio with their good-looking children).

Also there were the Tengcos; Bonito Singsong and his *famille*; the Perez de Tagles; the Bouffard clan; plus the eight French house guests of the Zubiris, headed by soon to be Zubiri son-in-law, the handsome Victor Delfour, who was with his gang and his fiancée, gorgeous Stephanie Zubiri.

Victor and Stephanie will say their "I do's" in Toulouse, France, on July 22.

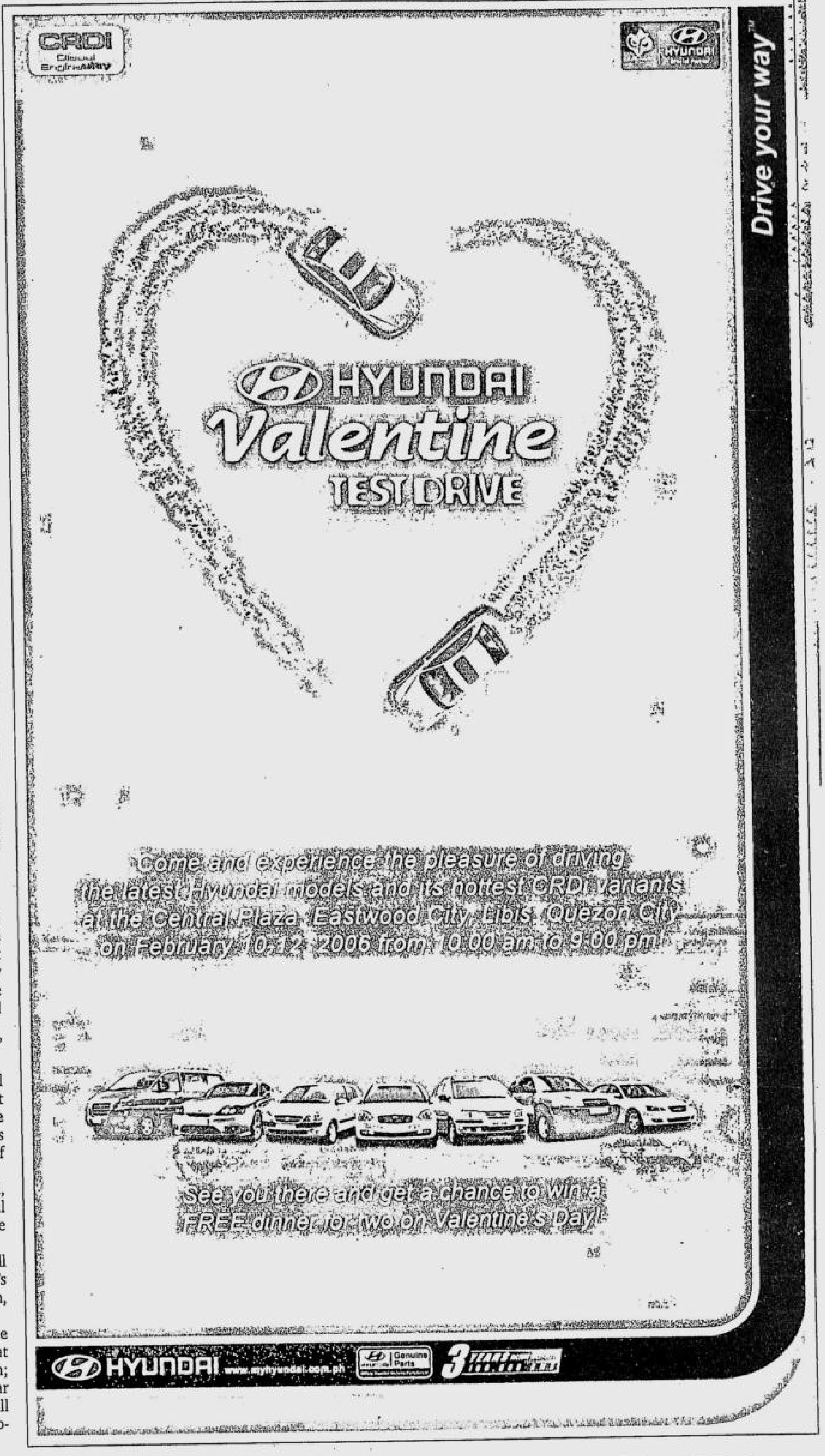
Also there were the Tuasons; the beautiful *famille* of Maricris and Iñigo Zobel; architect Anton Mendoza; stunning Sunshine de Leon; and beach boy Nino Zulueta, who was beaming with pride over the huge success of the popular Greek resto, CYMA.

Breast-cancer crusader Sigalit Djemal, with her *famille*, was also there, plus several others all over Boracay just as famous like them.

All had one wish at the strike of 12 (after all the kissing and hugging welcome): "Hey! Let's all drop this shameful political circus we are in, and get on with our lives and our country.

The sponsors for this once-in-a-lifetime event were Hitachi, Seair, the airline that takes you the fastest to this paradise on earth; the Bulletin; Asia Brewery, and the popular Paradise Mango Rum Liqueur, which we all were gulping down before popping cool bubbly champagne bottles at midnight.

iness, has been signed up as Bench's newest
(from left) Jojo Liamzon, Bench
Talent Circuit president and Ben Chan, Bench
A 7 series "Mulawin," is currently a host of
he pert and stunning Rizza appeared in
e recent Metro Manila Film Festival
Gutierrez's girlfriend in the forthcoming flick,
eilly's short film "Sugar Affair."



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HYUNDAI www.myhyundai.com.ph Genuine Parts

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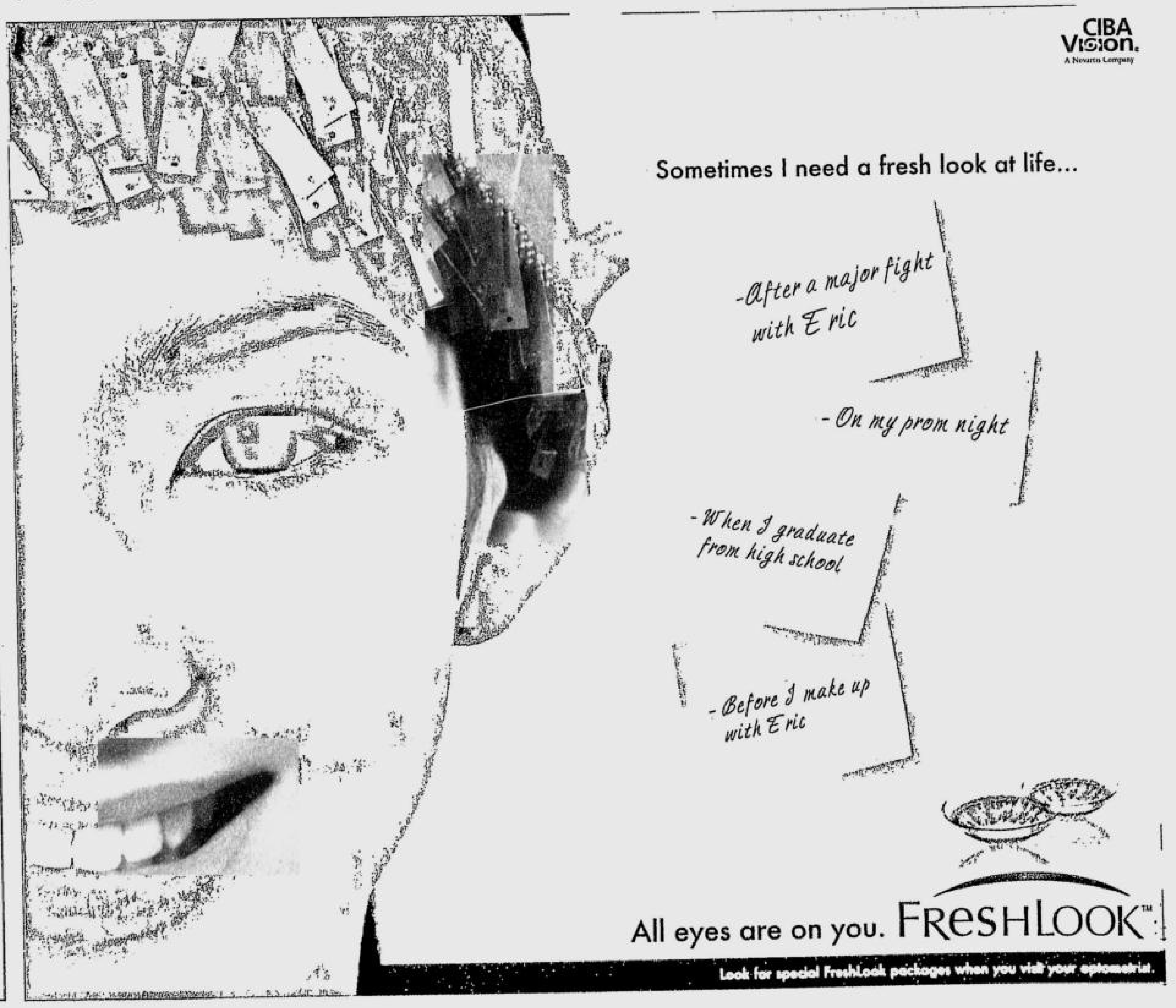
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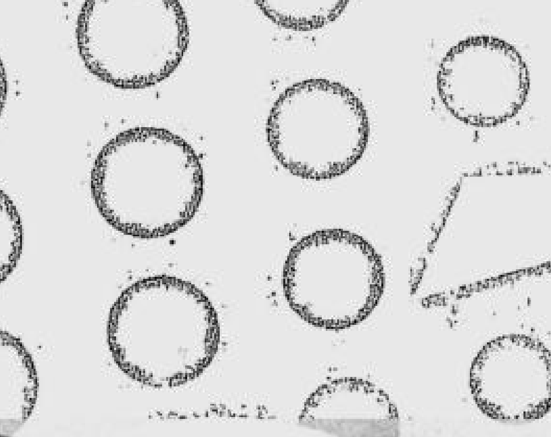
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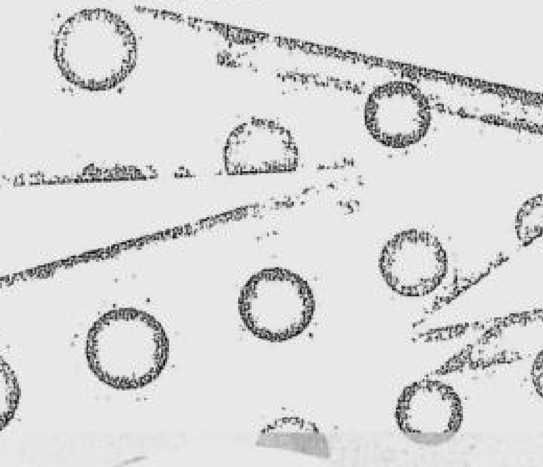
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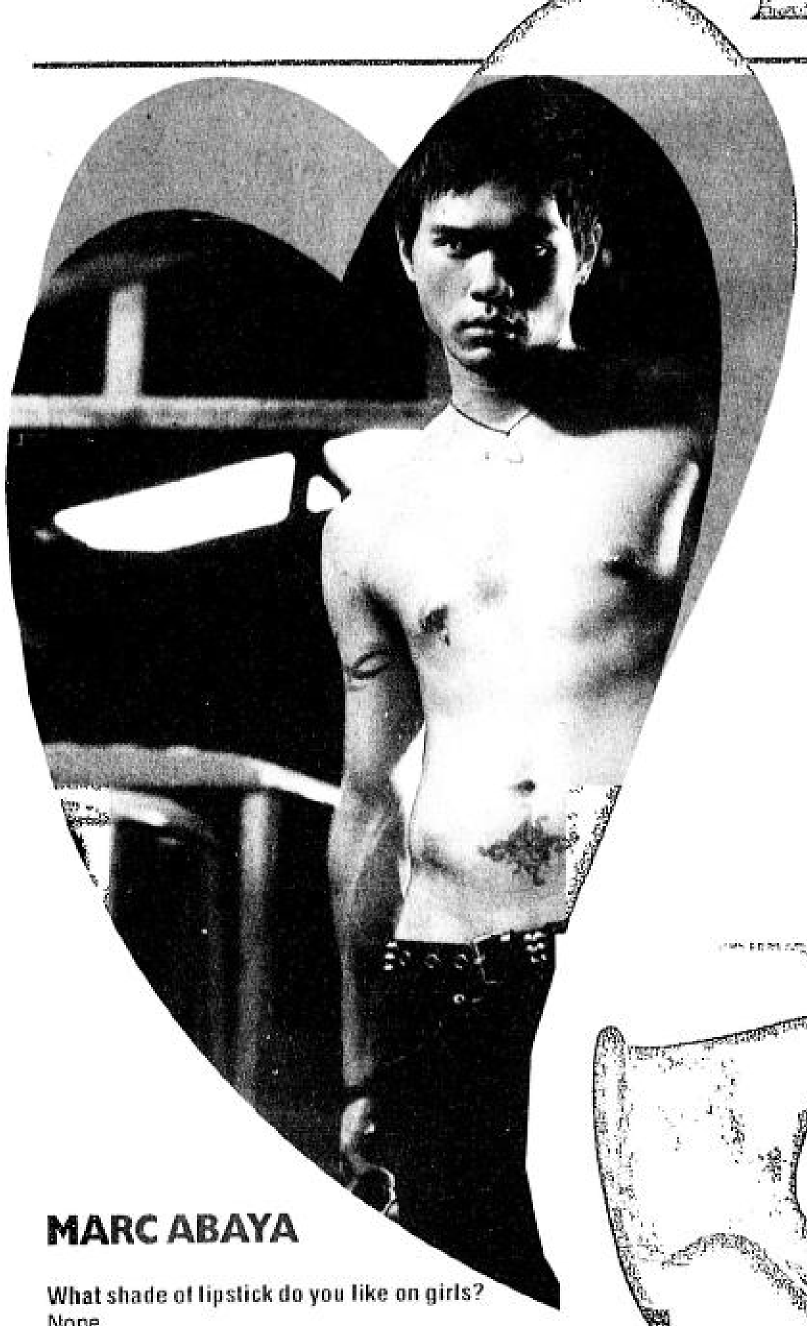
Guy-lines

BEAUTY

Find out what they are looking for... pE2
Gift guide. pE3
Talking scents. pE4



MARC ABAYA

What shade of lipstick do you like on girls? None
Cropped do or long mane? Short
Fave scent on a woman? Issey Miyake for women
Head turner: My girlfriend Monica Llamas, Cherrie Gil, and Keira Knightley
***Morena* or mestiza?** Exotic
Petite or model's height? Petite
Boobs or butt? Boobs
Waif or voluptuous babe? Voluptuous
What makes a girl beautiful? Confidence, not overconfidence. Someone who knows what she is doing
What would you like to receive for Valentine's? Just a whole day of snuggling and eating in bed

PHOTOS FROM COSMOPOLITAN MAGAZINE WATCH OUT FOR THEIR SEPTEMBER 2006 CENTERFOLDS

Beauty shoutout: Before a date, indulge yourself in a spa, then visit your fave salon for grooming. Have fun and make it special! —*Sunshine Dixon* (actress)

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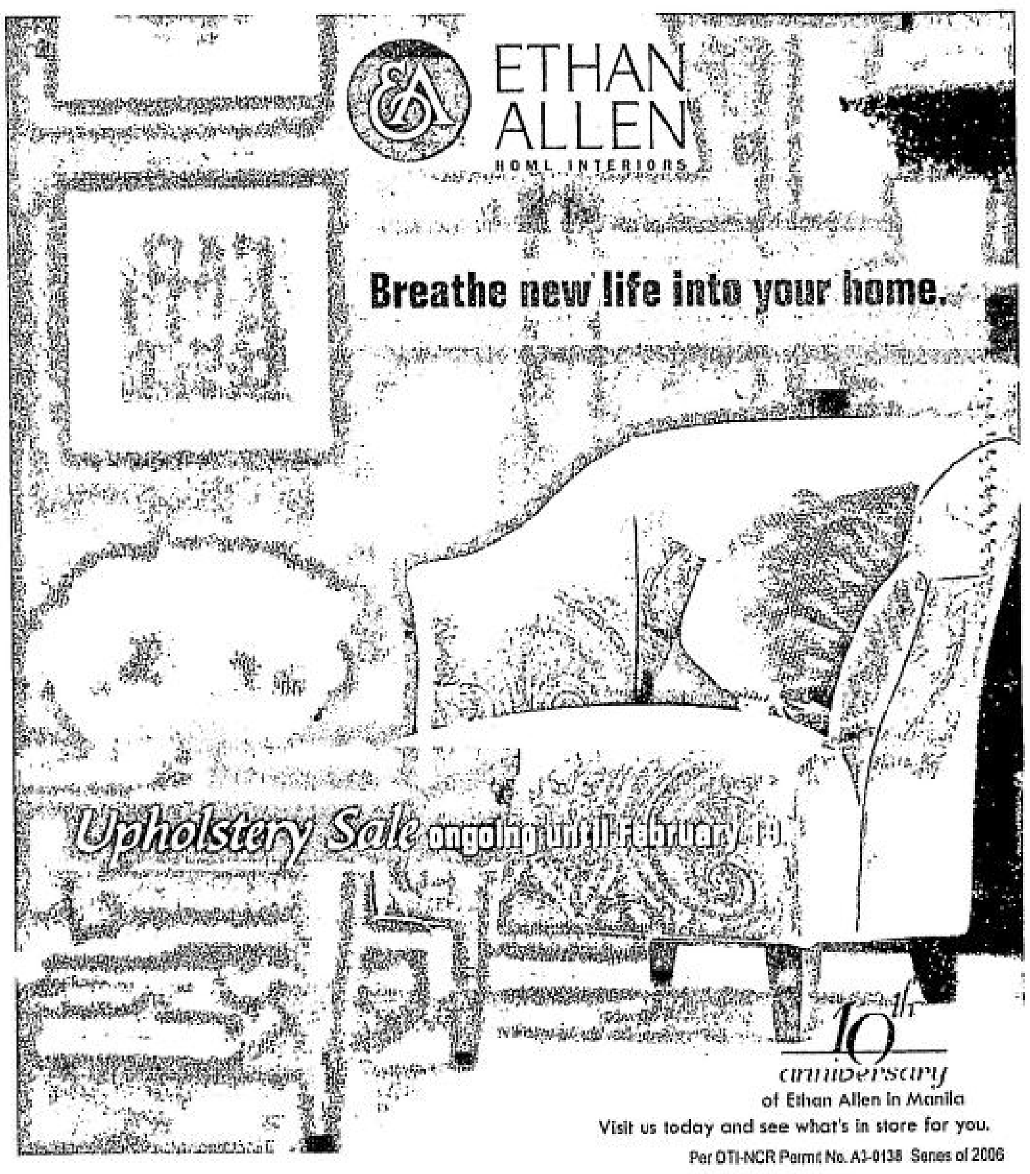
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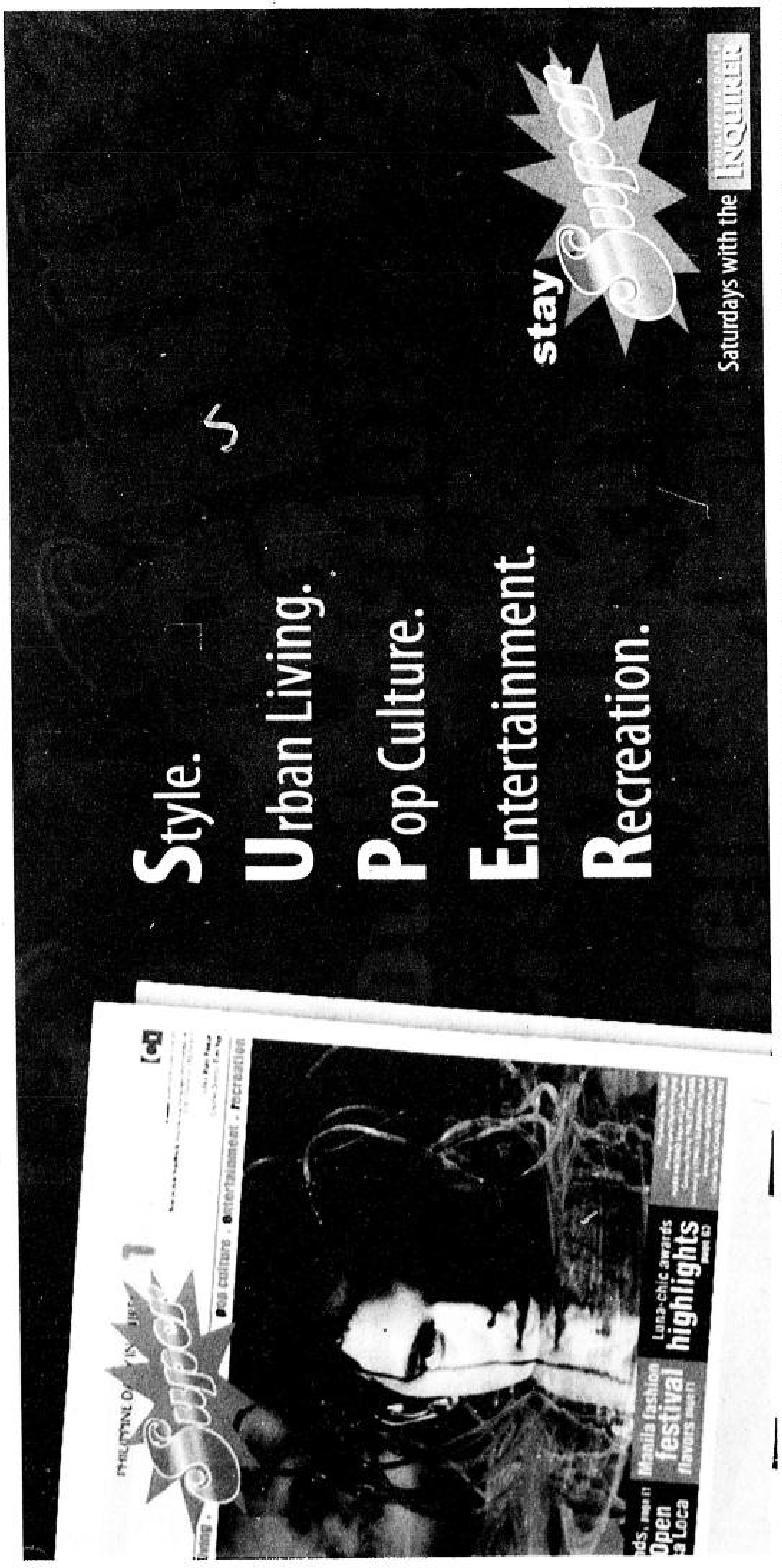
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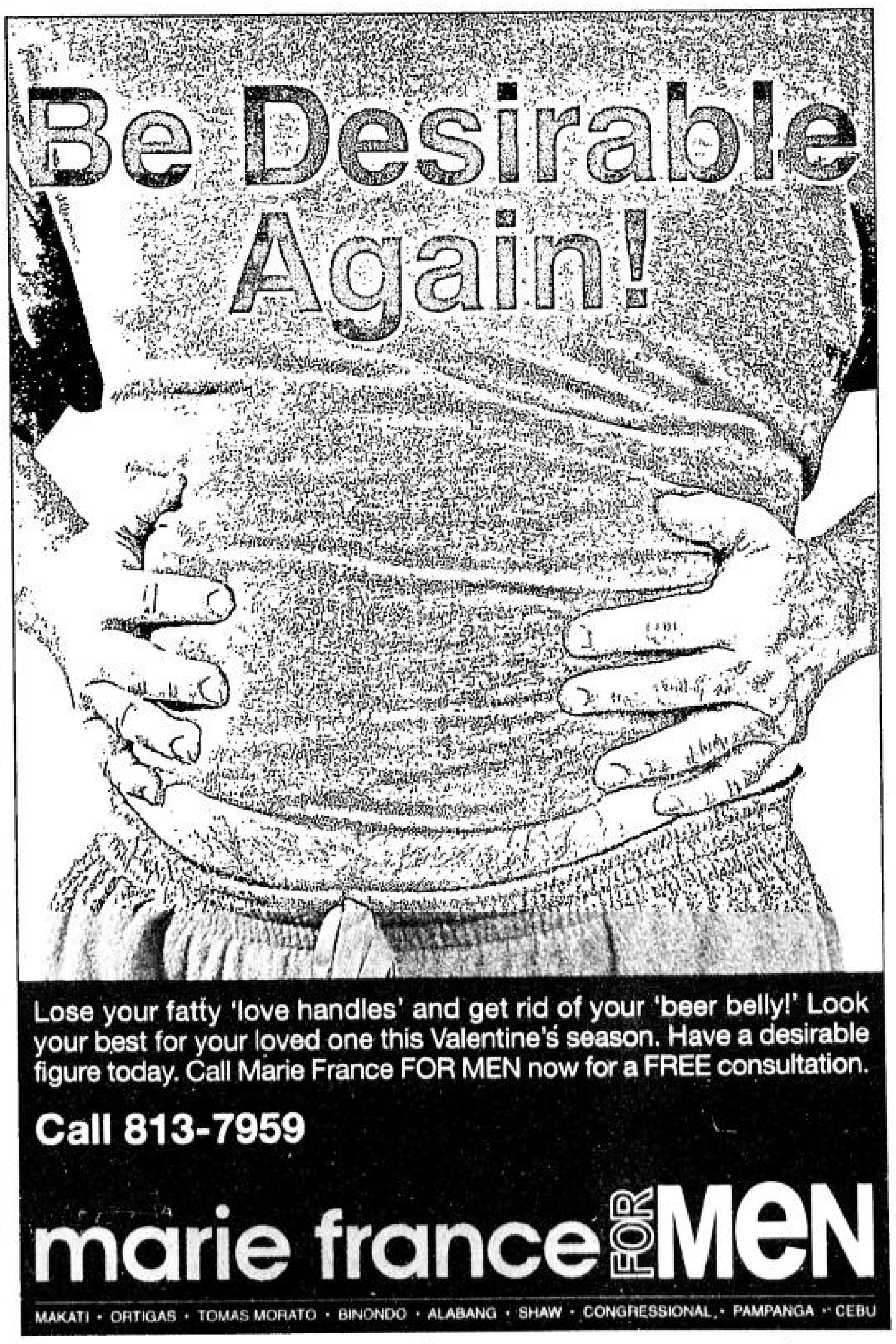
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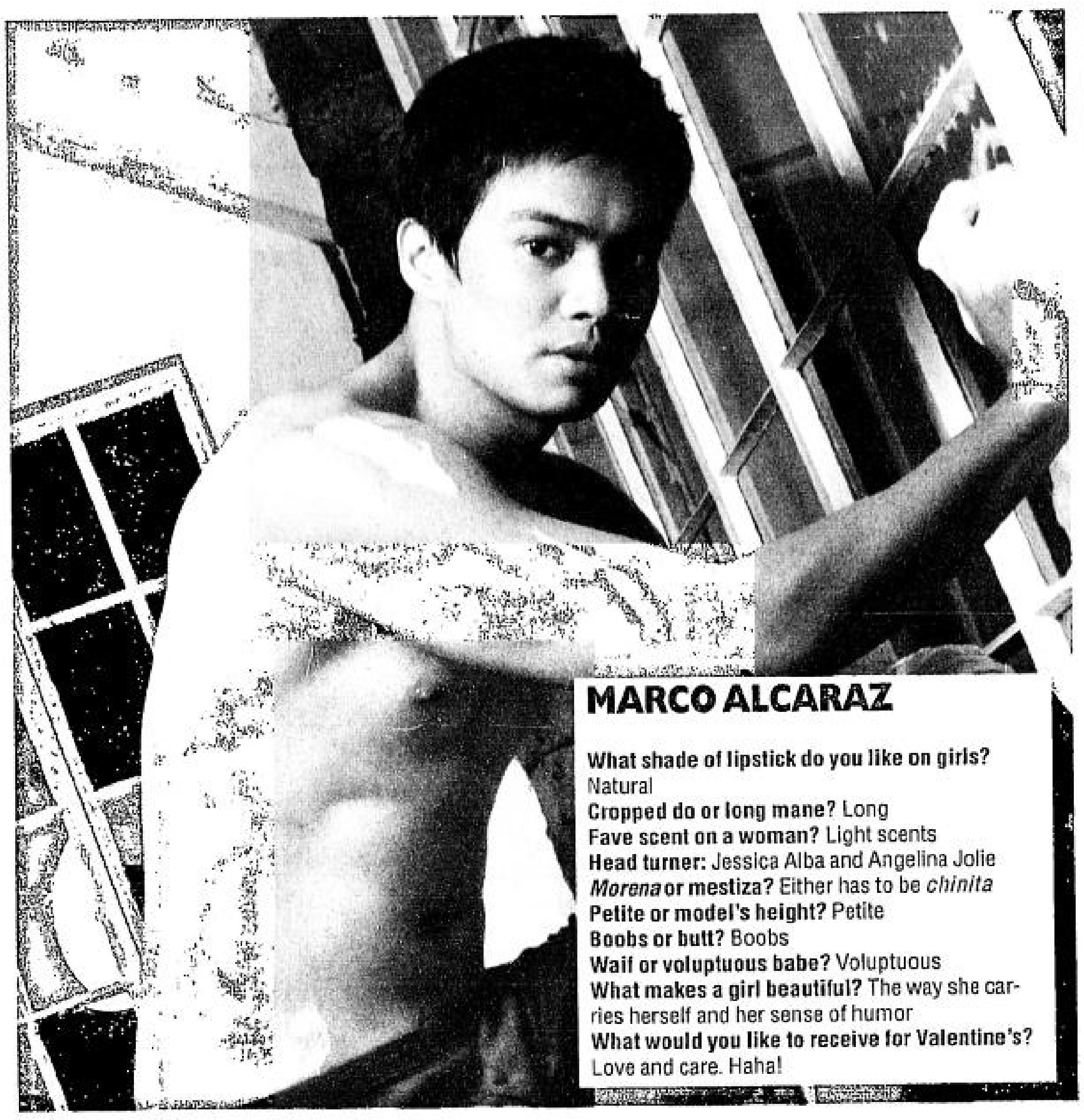
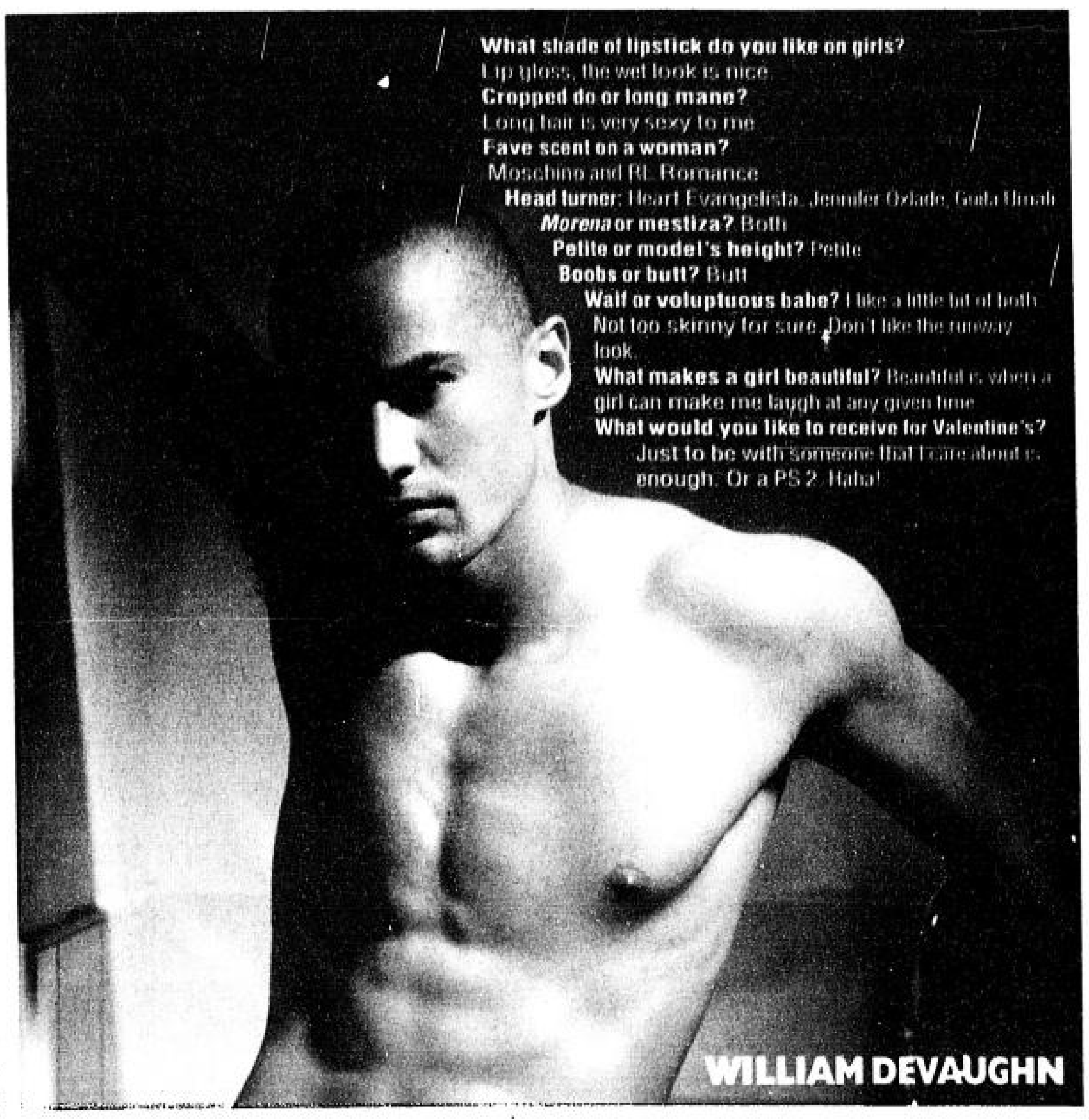


MARCO ALCARAZ

What shade of lipstick do you like on girls? Natural
Cropped do or long mane? Long
Fave scent on a woman? Light scents
Head turner: Jessica Alba and Angelina Jolie
***Morena* or mestiza?** Either has to be *chinita*
Petite or model's height? Petite
Boobs or butt? Boobs
Waif or voluptuous babe? Voluptuous
What makes a girl beautiful? The way she carries herself and her sense of humor
What would you like to receive for Valentine's? Love and care. Haha!

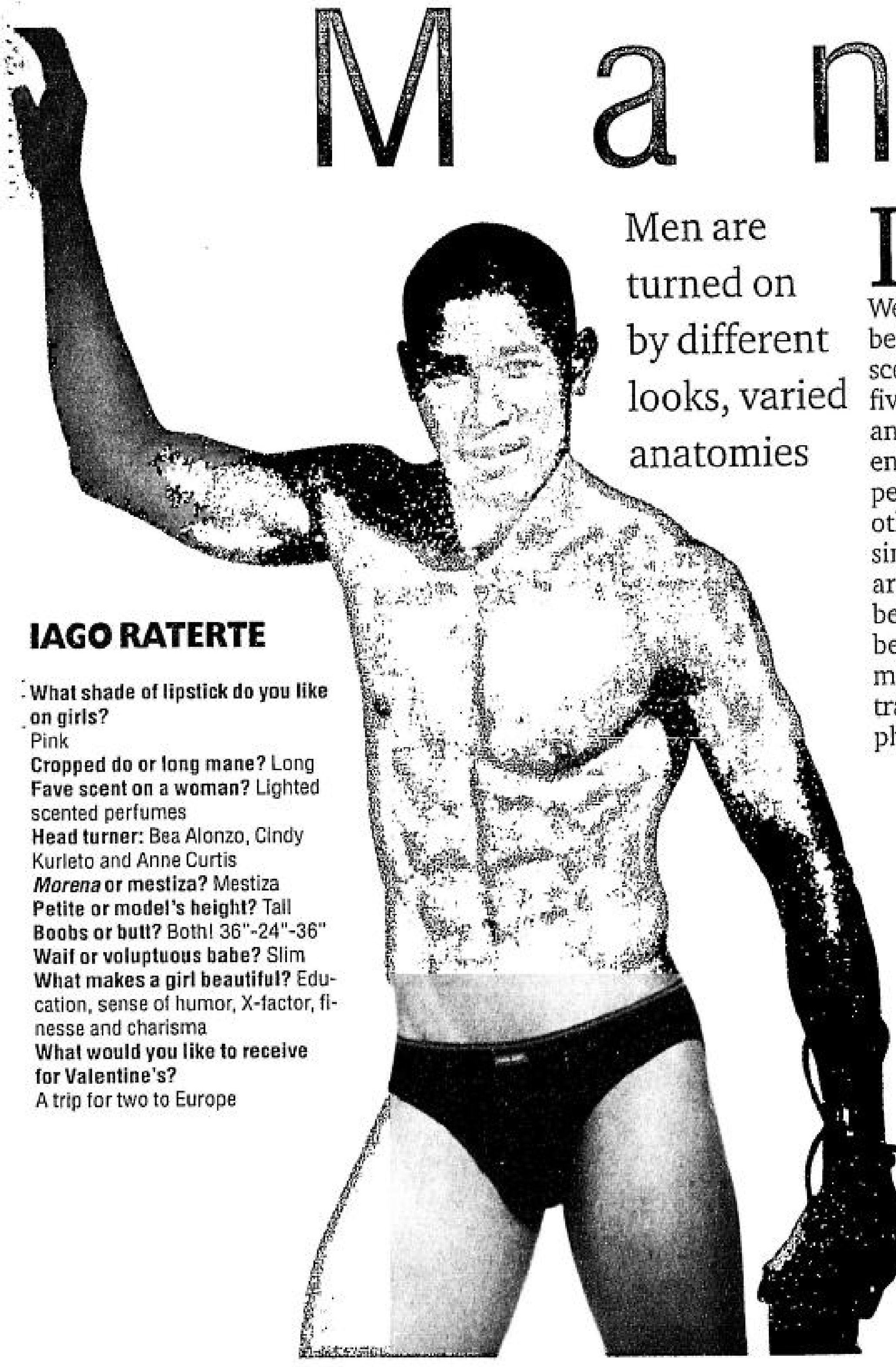


WILLIAM DEVAUGHN

What shade of lipstick do you like on girls? Lip gloss, the wet look is nice.
Cropped do or long mane? Long hair is very sexy to me
Fave scent on a woman? Moschino and RL Romance
Head turner: Heart Evangelista, Jennifer Oxlade, Gaila Umali
***Morena* or mestiza?** Both
Petite or model's height? Petite
Boobs or butt? Butt
Waif or voluptuous babe? I like a little bit of both. Not too skinny for sure. Don't like the runway look.
What makes a girl beautiful? Beautiful is when a girl can make me laugh at any given time
What would you like to receive for Valentine's? Just to be with someone that I care about is enough. Or a PS 2. Haha!

Manhunt

Men are turned on by different looks, varied anatomies



IAGO RATERTE

What shade of lipstick do you like on girls? Pink
Cropped do or long mane? Long
Fave scent on a woman? Lighted scented perfumes
Head turner: Bea Alonzo, Cindy Kurleto and Anne Curtis
***Morena* or mestiza?** Mestiza
Petite or model's height? Tall
Boobs or butt? Both! 36"-24"-36"
Waif or voluptuous babe? Slim
What makes a girl beautiful? Education, sense of humor, X-factor, finesse and charisma
What would you like to receive for Valentine's? A trip for two to Europe

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT there! That was what I felt last Wednesday after not being in the party scene for more than five months. I felt lost and misplaced and ended up watching people checking out other people. And since Valentine's is around the corner, I became curious and I began asking my male friends what attracts them to women—physically, that is.

The answers were varied. My friend once told me that he read that men were unconsciously drawn to girls that had full hips and big breasts as these subconsciously signified easier childbirth and abundant milk for their future kids. Hmmm... I wonder who concocted this theory? Some caveman, perhaps?

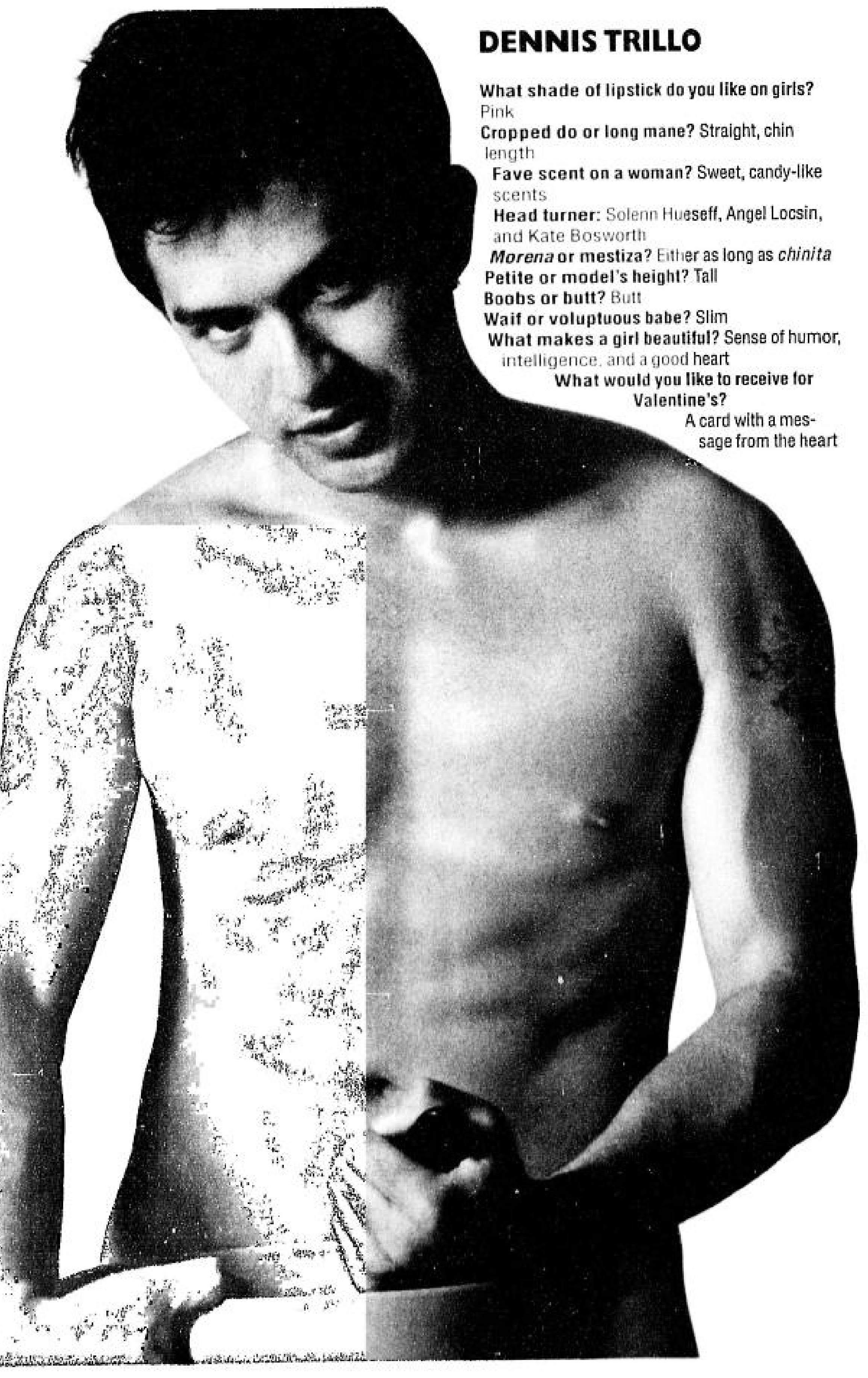
I asked my husband what his type was and he said thin because he had taken into consideration the fact that girls would eventually gain weight. He said he also preferred girls with small breasts because eventually big breasts would inevitably suffer from the pull of gravity. Whew! Thank God for little favors.

In any case, I believe that everyone is beautiful and every girl is some hot man's type. Oh, and it is true that beauty, after all that's been said and done, is inner; it's what's inside that really counts.

Just the same, here's a very special Valentine treat for you. My friend, Donna Cuna-Pita, Cosmopolitan magazine's fashion director, asked male centerfold models what made them take a second look. And with the permission of Ianne Sison, Cosmopolitan's EIC, I will be able to publish the pictures of the models for every single woman's delight.

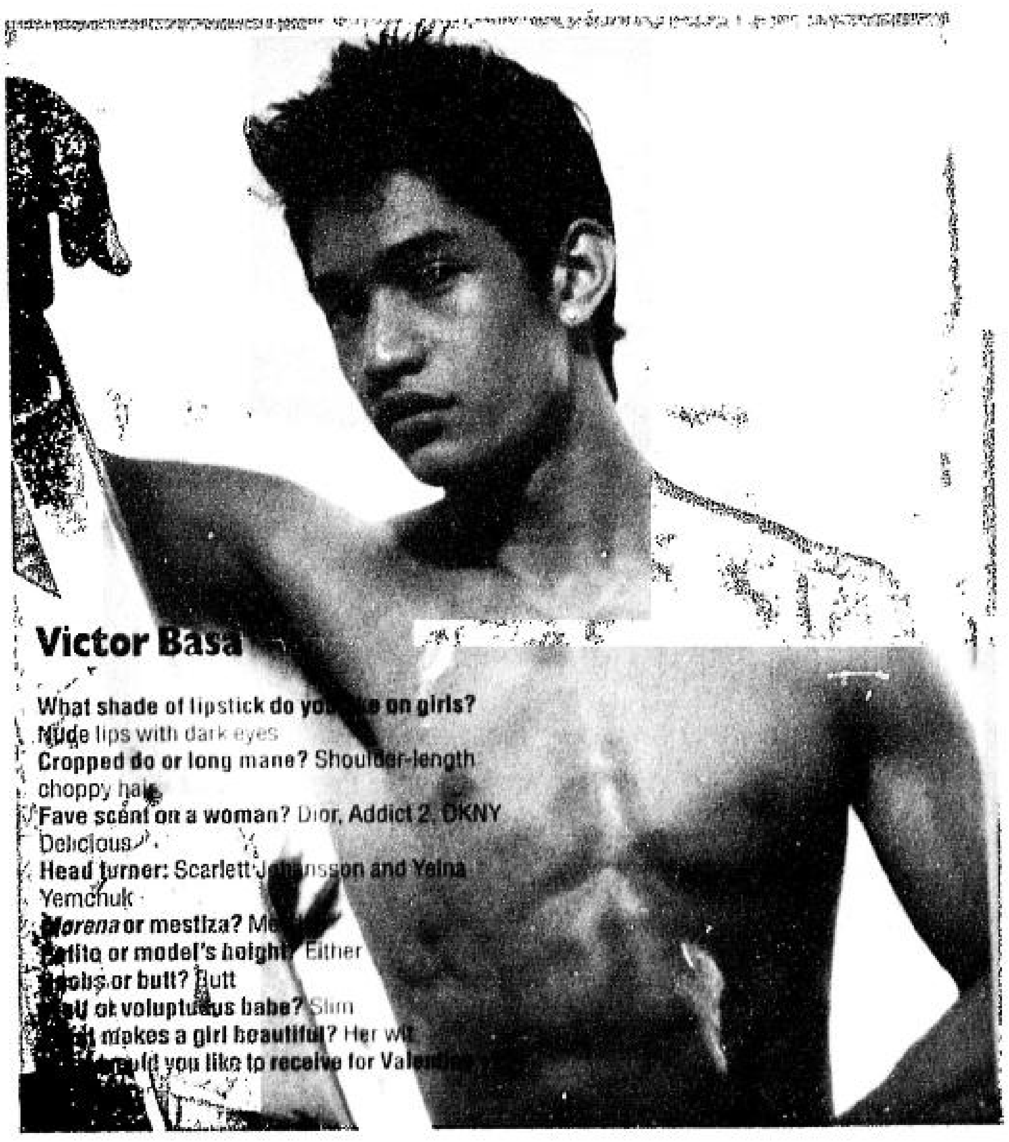
Happy Valentine's!

E-mail me at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph



DENNIS TRILLO

What shade of lipstick do you like on girls? Pink
Cropped do or long mane? Straight, chin length
Fave scent on a woman? Sweet, candy-like scents
Head turner: Solenn Hueseff, Angel Locsin, and Kate Bosworth
***Morena* or mestiza?** Either as long as *chinita*
Petite or model's height? Tall
Boobs or butt? Butt
Waif or voluptuous babe? Slim
What makes a girl beautiful? Sense of humor, intelligence, and a good heart
What would you like to receive for Valentine's? A card with a message from the heart



Victor Basa

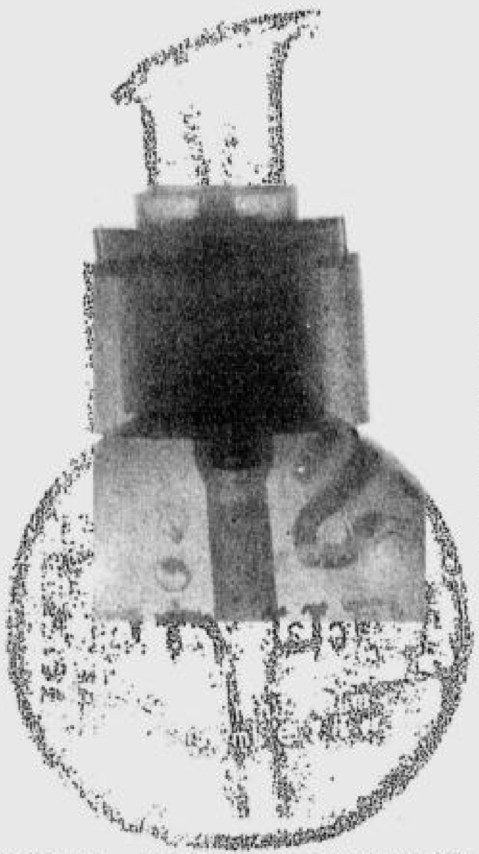
What shade of lipstick do you like on girls? Nude lips with dark eyes
Cropped do or long mane? Shoulder-length choppy hair
Fave scent on a woman? Dior, Addict 2, DKNY Delicious
Head turner: Scarlett Johansson and Yelna Yemchuk
***Morena* or mestiza?** M[illegible]
Petite or model's height? Either
Boobs or butt? Butt
Waif or voluptuous babe? Slim
What makes a girl beautiful? Her wit
What would you like to receive for Valen[illegible]

V-Day choice giveaways

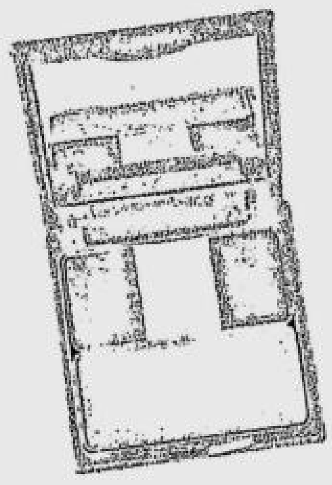
Because it doesn't always have to be roses

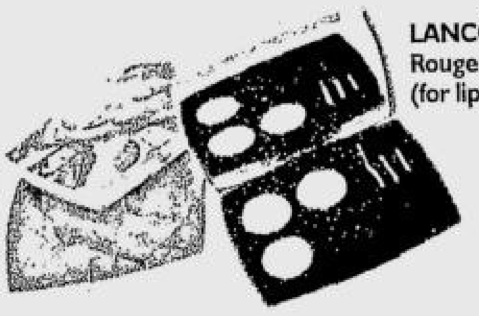
GEARING UP FOR FEBRUARY'S BIG DATE? Cosmo's beauty editor Mariel Chua dishes fabulous face and body treats for you and your man to try this month of hearts. Your V-day shopping trip starts here:

TIGI Bedhead Treat Me Right peppermint hair mask, P1,690


TIGI Bedhead Girl Toys shine serum, P1,490

CLINIQUE Turnaround 15-minute facial, P2,570

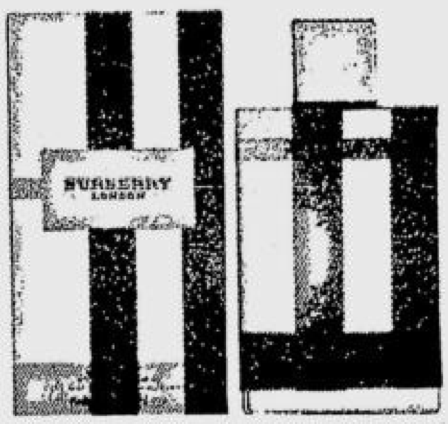

SHU Uemura limited-edition summer palette, P4,995


LANCÔME Juicy Rouge Palette (for lips) 2,995

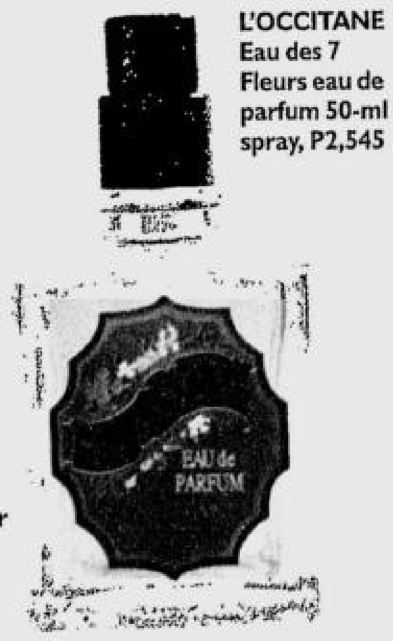
LANCÔME Color Focus and Juicy Rouge Palettes for eyes and lips, P2,995 each

L'ORÉAL Lumi-Oil Smoothing Oil Essence 3, P700

TOMMY Hilfiger True Star for Men eau de toilette, 50 ml, P2,200


BURBERRY London Women eau de parfum 100-ml spray, about P4,950

ESTÉE Lauder Pleasures Exotic eau de parfum 50-ml spray, P2,600


L'OCCITANE Eau des 7 Fleurs eau de parfum 50-ml spray, P2,545

L'ORÉAL Studio Line Party Proof Extreme Hold water-resistant gel, P445

CLINIQUE Skin Supplies for Men Oil-Control Hydrator pore-minimizing formula, about P1,295

AWAKE Eye Tint Stardom, P1,200 each

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0901 Series of 2006

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- Basic food styling techniques
- The latest trends in food styling
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- Use of color and texture for maximum effect
- Shooting food for film and camera
- How to deal with difficult foods
- The tools of the trade

Plus get the chance to watch a live photo shoot!

Ms. Custer teaches at the Culinary Institute of America and New School University in New York. She has styled for the best known international brands. Her clients include Pillsbury, Nabisco, Tupperware, Paul Newman, Time-Life Books, Mrs. Fields, Campbell's, Chocolatier, and Cuisinart. She also develops recipes for food companies and appears frequently on U.S. television to discuss food styling techniques and nutritional concerns.

Take this opportunity to learn from her expertise when she comes to Manila. A one-day class will be held Saturday, March 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Training Halls A & B, 13/F ELJ Communications Center, E. Lopez Avenue, Quezon City.

Who should attend: Chefs, culinary instructors/culinary students, art directors/artists, advertising creative directors, food manufacturers/food distributors, restaurateurs/caterers, marketing and PR directors, photographers/cinematographers, appliance manufacturers, food enthusiasts

Call now for early registration or fax the form below.

Telephone: 415-2272 loc 4640 (Miki Espe)
415-2762 (Lou Gonzales)
Fax no.: 415-1215
E-mail: food@abs.pinoycentral.com
lou_gonzales@abs.pinoycentral.com

Fees: P6,500 for those registering and paying before Feb. 17
P7,500 for those registering and paying after Feb. 17

Fees include snacks, lunch at Restaurant 9501, ABS-CBN's exclusive penthouse restaurant; recipe handouts, lecture handouts, a copy of Food Magazine's 10th Anniversary Cookbook, and other surprise gifts!

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Bag giveaways are great cosmetic come-ons

ANNICK Goutal Mandragore for Men

TWO COSMETIC GIANTS are giving away handbags to shoppers who either purchase a particular product or reach a minimum subtotal amount until the end of February.

The giveaway bags are actually fashionable and sturdy enough for everyday use.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

Awake, a makeup brand under the Japanese cosmetic giant Kose, has tied up with bag designer Catherine Malandrino. For every P10,000 single-receipt purchase, the customer will get her off-white canvas and eyelet bag which fashion forecasts have proclaimed the hottest thing to have this Spring 2006.

Awake has a very good skincare line, and my favorites are the Firm Advantage cream, which not only firms the skin on the face, neck and hands, but also whitens to even out complexion, lessens fine lines, moisturizes and repairs environmental damage.

Awake's Exfolizer lotion is a toner that tightens pores and exfoliates dead skin cells so fine lines are lessened and breakouts are prevented.

My oily skin cleanser is Deep Purity Clay wash, which keeps the oil and acne under control. Face will stay shine-free for hours.

Avon is the other fashion giant that is offering a giveaway bag—matte gold wristlet bag which is big enough to carry a lot of stuff but sleek enough not to weigh one down fashionably. This can be obtained upon the purchase of Avon's Always Eau de Parfum.

Always is the last of Avon's perfume trilogy and, by far, my favorite of them all. Today is a white floral bouquet, Tomorrow, a sexy vanilla base. Always is a fruity floral blend of yellow tulips and star fruit. It has a fresh green-tea note but with a fruity twist. Smelling it makes my mouth water literally and it is the most perfect scent for our climate. Unlike most fresh scents that fade fast, this stays on long.

Lighter scents

If you are going to buy a special new scent for Valentine, please bear in mind that we are headed for warmer weather so lighter scents are the key. Fragrances usually labeled sensual and identified with love and romance are pretty heavy for daytime and even summer-night use so spend your money wisely and splurge on those that will make you smell fresh. My current suggestions:

MARY Kay Embrace Harmony fragrance mist

1. **Caudalie Vinotherapie Fleur de Vigne, 100 ml (P1,850).** Smells like fresh green grapes that is surprisingly addicting and a special boxed package comes with a miniature candle with an identical scent—think French vineyard

2. **Clean Fresh Laundry EDP, 60 ml (P3,950).** Reminiscent of Downy's April Fresh scent and it lacks the citrus note of Classic Clean. This is third place in my heart next to classic or ultimate clean.

3. **Mary Kay's Embrace Harmony, 50 ml (P1,050).** Combines my two favorite fresh and relaxing notes of marine and green bamboo successfully. Your own portable spa atmosphere! This seems the favorite of my guy friends due to the marine undertone.

4. **Annick Goutal Mandragore, 100 ml (P3,450 for men) and 50 ml (P2,950 for women).** There is a growing market of people who are going nuts over the scent of ginger. This is definitely a keeper for you guys. The ginger note mixes well with the citrusy bergamot, refreshing spearmint, star anise, sage and, of course, the ancient aphrodisiac mandrake. It smells fresh; it also lasts long.

5. **Damien Bash Unisex Parfum in Lucifer No. 2, 100 ml (P5,950).** Undoubtedly the most controversial new brand of all playing on the "lure of the forbidden" marketing style. It comes in a black box of four other variants and has a matching coal-black candle for P3,950. Lucifer No. 2 is the most suitable for summer with its notes of grapefruit, lilac, jasmine, bergamot, cardamom, green tea and papaya. The combination is strangely tempting, yummy, addicting and lasting; smells clean and really is suitable for both sexes. Dangerously sexy is the only way to classify this range.

Favorite summer candle: Comptoir Sud Pacifique's Aqua Motu's scent (P1,450) will transport you to exotic beaches or expensive spas. I light it up while working and it helps me concentrate and de-stress. It's a great Valentine's Day gift for the special man in your life. I have yet to meet a guy who doesn't love it.

Awake, Damien Bash, Annick Goutal are exclusively available at Rustan's. Caudalie, Clean, Comptoir at Essenses. Call Avon at 8642900. Call Mary Kay at 8934855 or e-mail mkpcservice@mkcorp.com

COMPTOIR candle in Aqua Motu

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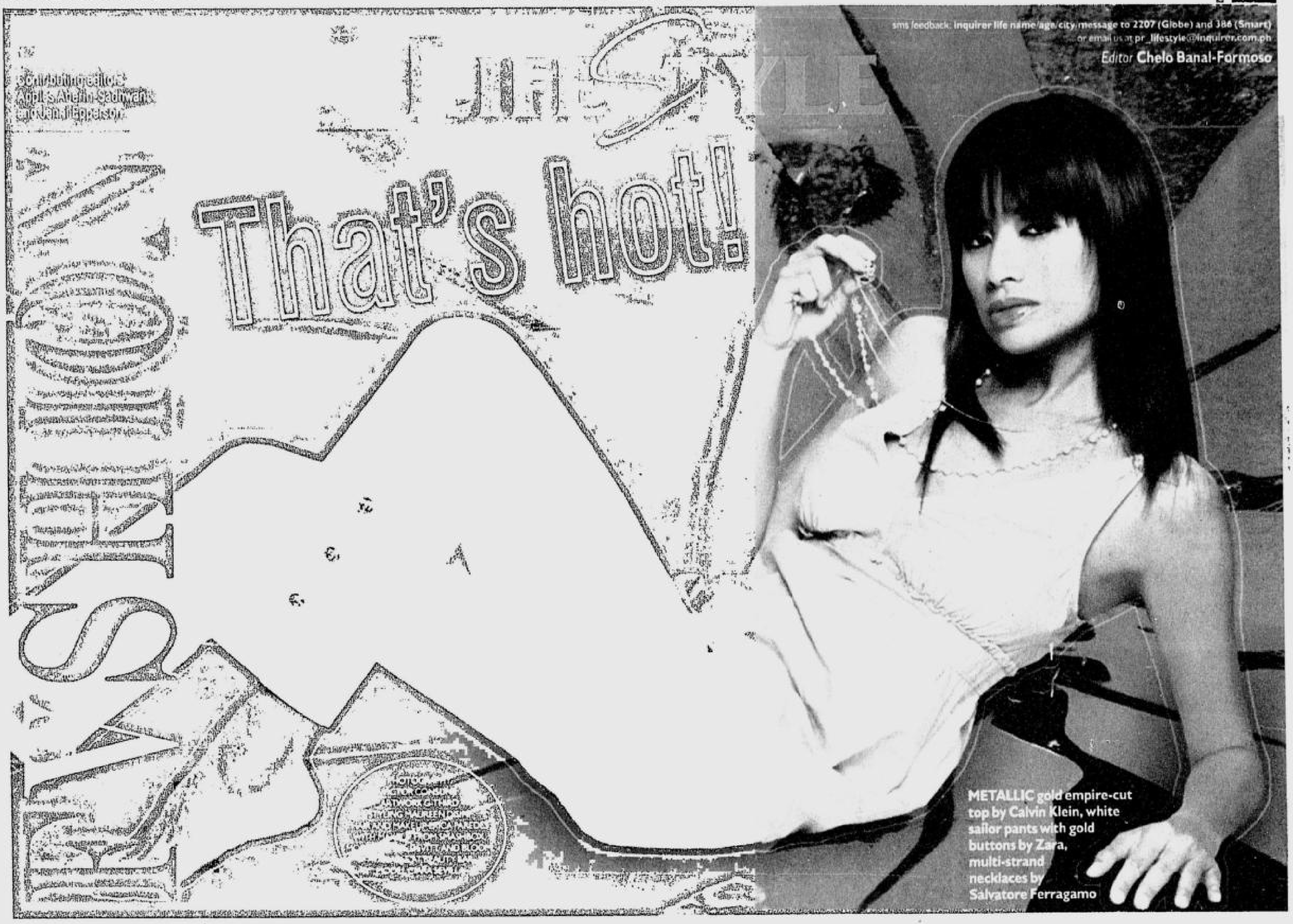


That's hot!

METALLIC gold empire-cut top by Calvin Klein, white sailor pants with gold buttons by Zara, multi-strand necklaces by Salvatore Ferragamo

The art of seduction

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

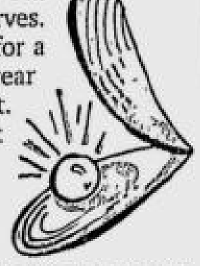
SEDUCTION CAN BE elevated into an art form. It does not have to be out-there and in-your-face. You don't have to cross and uncross your legs a la Sharon Stone in "Basic Instinct" or look like Eva Mendez in "Too Fast, Too Furious" to get your man's pulse racing.

Even though the male of the species can sometimes be, to put it bluntly, quite dense, subtle methods can surprisingly be as effective.

The best way to engage in the fine art of seduction is by finding ways to stimulate your man's five senses. The sense of sight, for instance, can be roused the moment he lays his eyes on you in a gorgeous dress, unlike anything he's seen you in before.

Here's a tip: Go for a bit of restraint by wearing something on the modest side. It's best to avoid an ensemble that's both low in front and slit to the thigh. You should slip into something like a high-necked cheongsam that leaves something to the imagination.

The sense of sound, on the other hand, can be stimulated by playing music that sets the mood or means something to you both. If you're feeling particularly cheesy, you can even prepare a romantic selection of songs that evoke special memories—songs you played during your last vacation in Boracay, for instance.



It will also help to dab your signature scent on various pulse points to stir your man's olfactory nerves. Musky scents are *de riguer* for a night of seduction, but wear whatever scent suits you best.

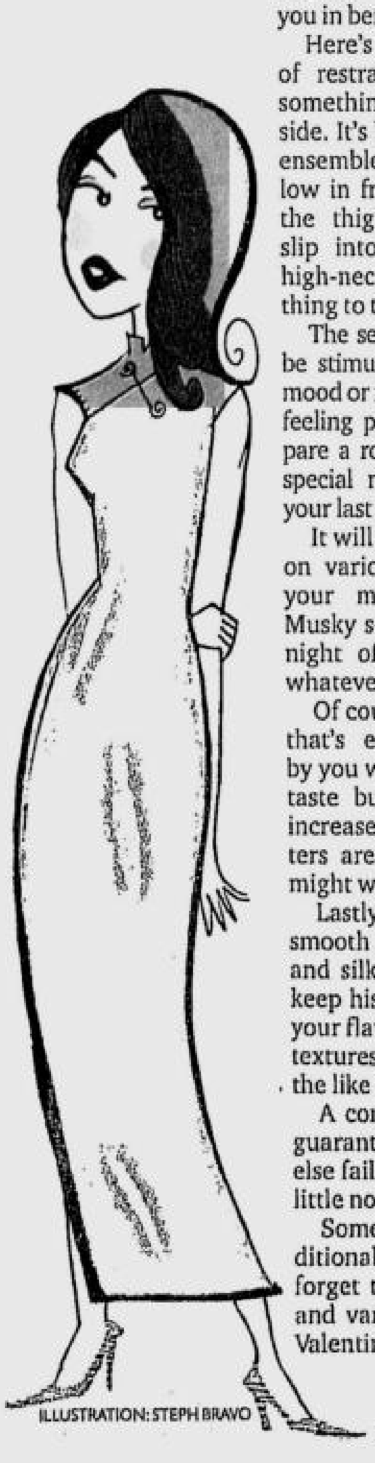
Of course, a culinary treat that's especially prepared by you will surely tickle his taste buds and hopefully increase his "mojo." Oysters are known to be aphrodisiacs, so you might want to prepare an oyster dish or two.

Lastly, fire up his sense of touch with smooth skin or clothing that's rich in texture and silky to the touch. He won't be able to keep his hands off you once he gets a feel of your flawless skin. Plus, a rich combination of textures such as satin, silk, lace, velvet and the like is irresistible to the touch.

A combination of all of the above should guarantee a fairly romantic evening. But if all else fails, simply slip into any of these darling little nothings *(see page F4)*.

Somehow, you can't go wrong with the traditional in-your-face approach. Oh, and don't forget those killer stilettos, big tousled hair and vampy red lipstick. Have a sizzling hot Valentine's day!

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph



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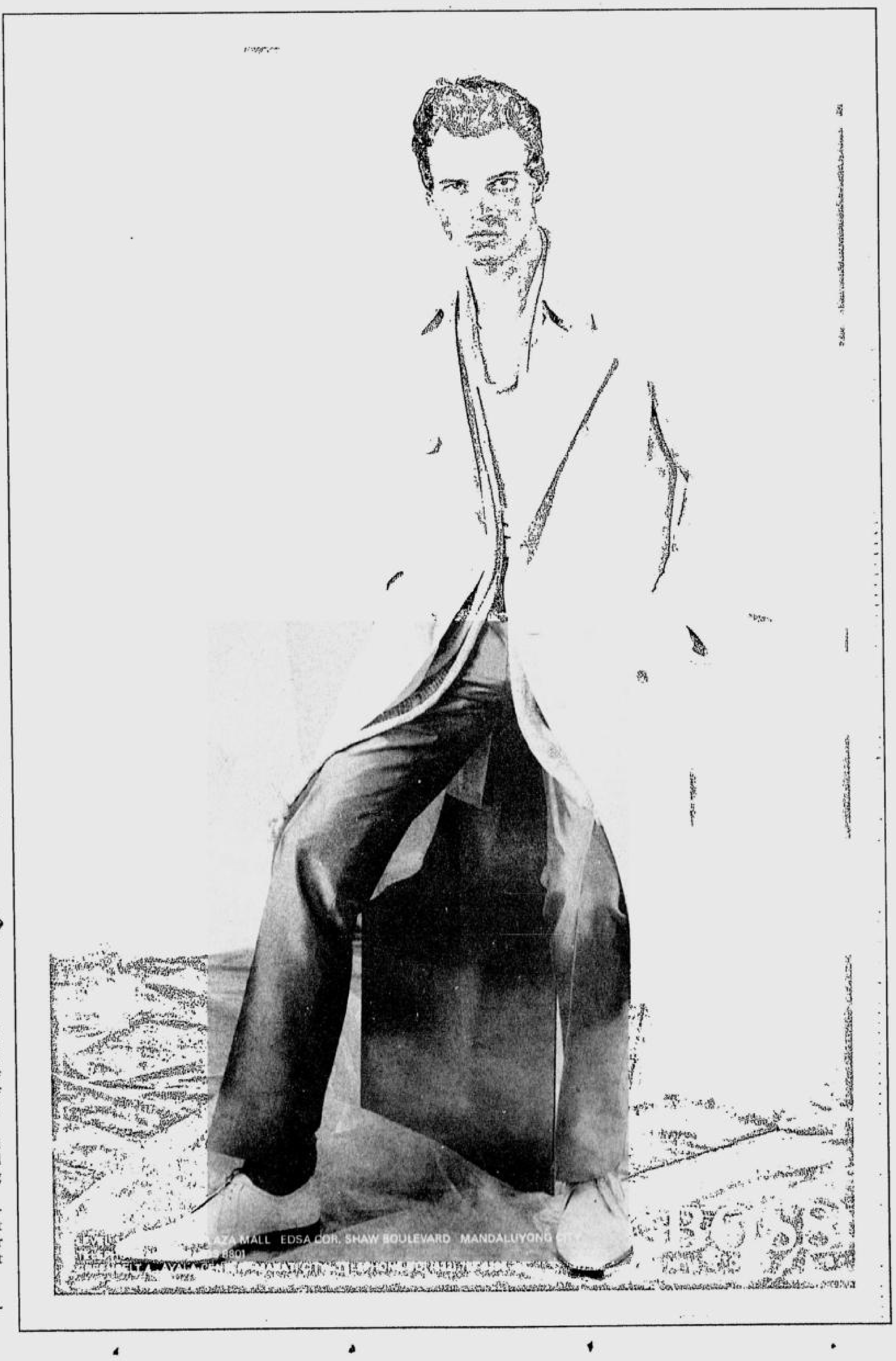
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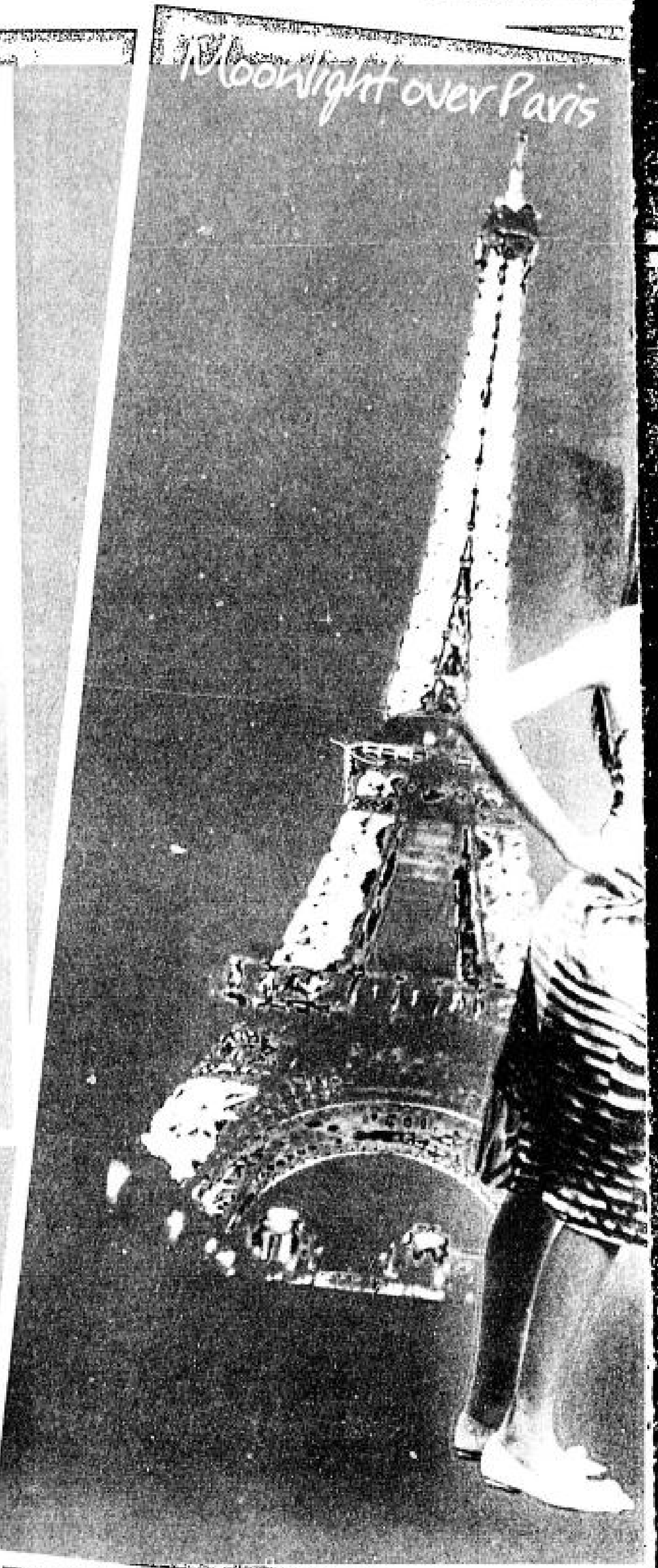
Postcard-perfect romance

Do a virtual travel of the world's most romantic spots through intrepid fashion

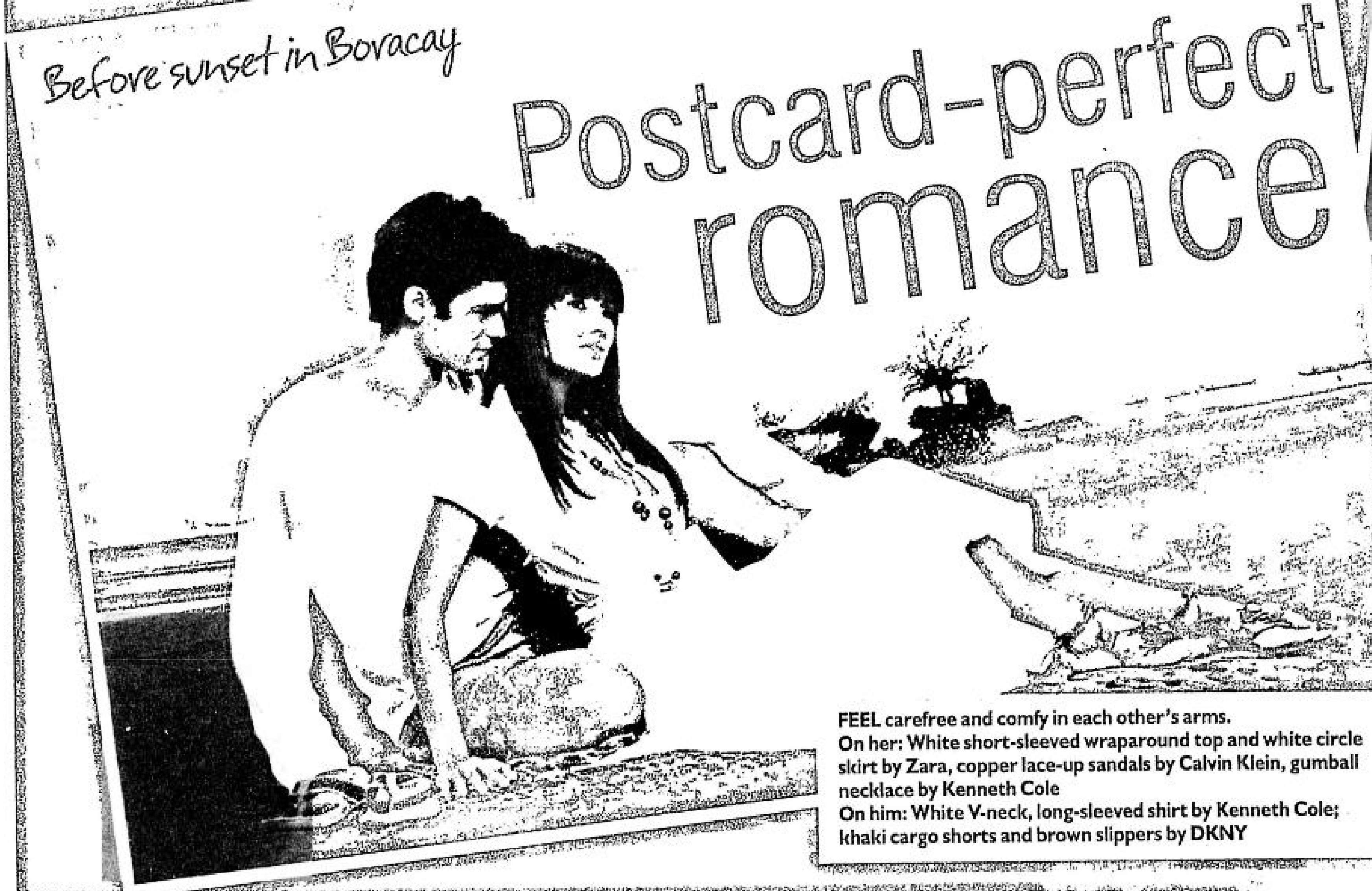
Her heart's in San Francisco

IT'S CASUAL meets chic on the streets of the Bay City.
On Ciara: Red printed sleeveless shirt, black vest and denim pants by Diesel; silver hoop earrings by Anne Klein; men's stainless steel watch used as bangle by Kenneth Cole; floral fedora hat by Gucci
On Nicolas: Brown printed shirt, green sweater and denim pants by Diesel

Moonlight over Paris



Before sunset in Boracay



FEEL carefree and comfy in each other's arms.
On her: White short-sleeved wraparound top and white circle skirt by Zara, copper lace-up sandals by Calvin Klein, gumball necklace by Kenneth Cole
On him: White V-neck, long-sleeved shirt by Kenneth Cole; khaki cargo shorts and brown slippers by DKNY

Under the Tuscan sun

FOOL around on the fields of the charming Italian region.
On her: Camel empire-cut dress by Calvin Klein, multi-strand chain necklace by Anne Klein
On him: Blue checkered long-sleeved shirt and denim pants by Zara

By Allison W. Lopez

THERE'S SOMETHING about places like Paris and Venice that makes couples all cuddly and kissy, something that makes them want to go there for a honeymoon, a rendezvous or a celebration like Valentine's.

So what is it about Paris and romance? Do you have to be on the Eiffel Tower to give French kisses, or on a gondola to be in the mood for love? If you think about it, the Eiffel is actually a communications tower and the gondolas cruise along back canals.

Being in Paris for Valentine's is so overrated. But being Paris, the symbol of romance itself? Way hot. (We're not talking about the Hilton heiress and her concept of romance, of course.)

Hit your man hard with a [illegible] look that mimics the imposing Eiffel Tower. Gold lamé top and bronzed bangle [illegible] make his eyes [illegible] for you.

Wow him [illegible] with empire-cut [illegible] remind him of [illegible] New York's Empire State Building. Greek-inspired [illegible] dress [illegible] him kneel before you goddess-like [illegible]

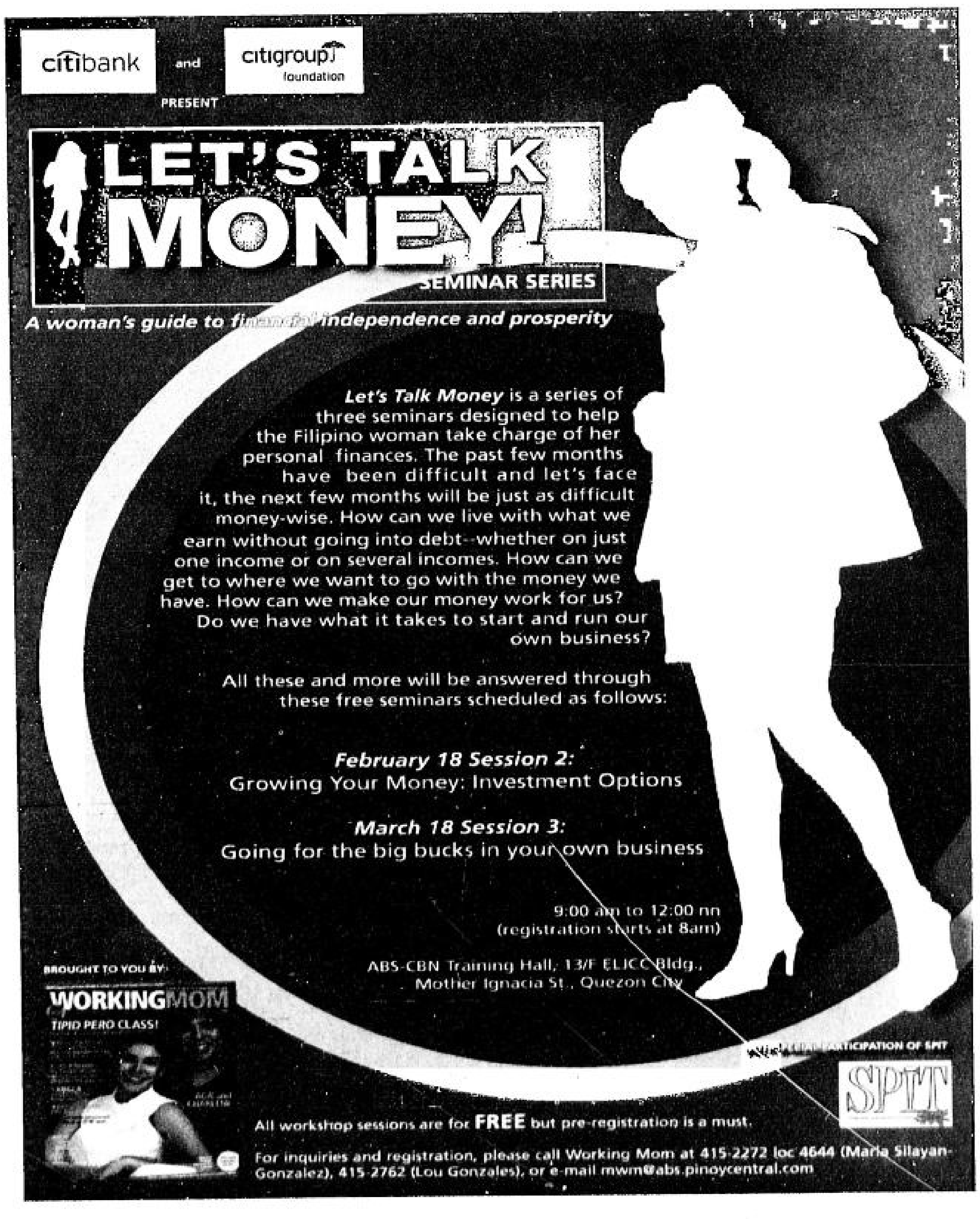
Make him feel the soft white sands of Boracay with a flowy white dress, slip [illegible] and a long bead necklace that can double as your bracelet, your anklet or handcuff—whatever suits your fancy.

[illegible] him with the nautical lines of striped frocks to keep his mind on [illegible] gondolas. Then [illegible] him to the Colosseum in Rome with [illegible] gladiator sandals.

Take a walk with him under the Tuscan sun [illegible] wear floral tops and skirts that [illegible] idyllic life in one of Italy's most charming places.

Relive the grandeur of English royalty [illegible] puffed sleeves [illegible]

[illegible]



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All these and more will be answered through these free seminars scheduled as follows:

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March 18 Session 3:
Going for the big bucks in your own business

9:00 am to 12:00 nn
(registration starts at 8am)

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LET your love shine in the City of Lights. On her: Striped satin dress and striped satin belt used as scarf, both by Kenneth Cole; glittery round-toe flats by Nine West On him: Brown long-sleeved shirt by Springfield, black pants by Hugo Boss, black leather shoes by Kenneth Cole

Love love hooray for love

"There is always some madness in love. But there is also always some reason in madness."

—Nietzsche

"I am in love—and, my God, it is the greatest thing that can happen to a man. I tell you, find a woman you can fall in love with. Do it. Let yourself fall in love. If you have not done so already, you are wasting your life."

—D.H. Lawrence

"Sexiness wears thin after a while and beauty fades, but to be married to a man who makes you laugh every day, ah, now that's a real treat."

—Joanne Woodward

"Gravitation can not be held responsible for people falling in love."

—Albert Einstein

"He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals."

—Benjamin Franklin

"There is a place you can touch a woman that will drive her crazy. Her heart."

—Melanie Griffith, "Milk Money"

"Love is being stupid together."

—Paul Valery (French poet, essayist and critic, 1871-1945)

"A kiss is a lovely trick designed by nature to stop speech when words become superfluous."

—Ingrid Bergman

"Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction."

—Antoine de Saint-Exupery

"Neither a lofty degree of intelligence nor imagination nor both together go to the making of genius. Love, love, love, that is the soul of genius."

—Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

"Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs. Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes. Being vexed, a sea nourished with lovers' tears. What is it else? A madness most discreet, a choking gall and a preserving sweet."

—William Shakespeare

"Love is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies."

—Aristotle

"And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make."

—John Lennon and Paul McCartney

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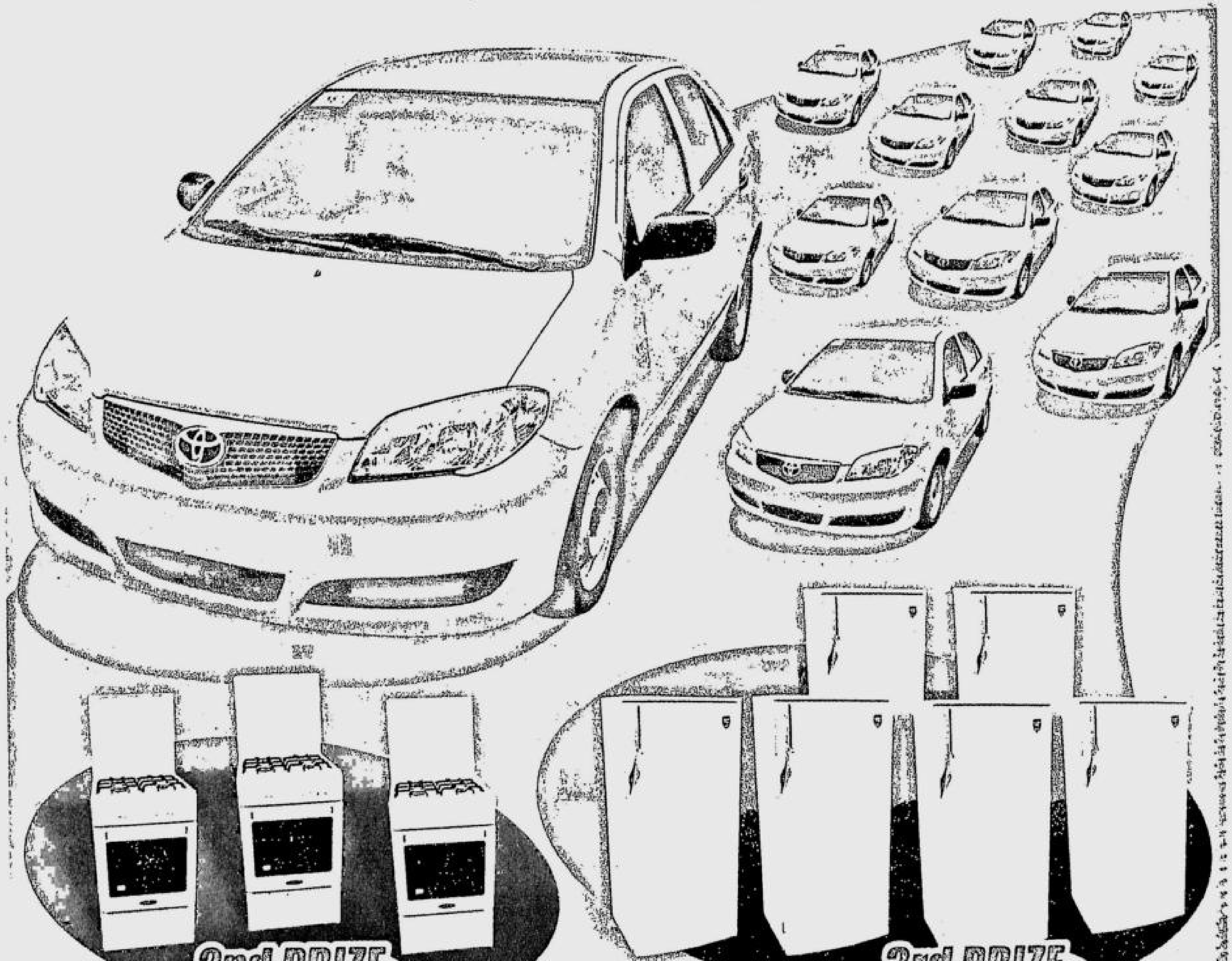

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The art of seduction

from page 1

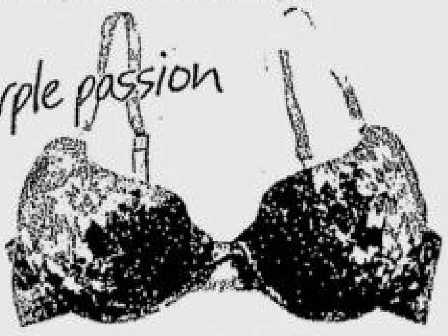
If all else fails on Valentine's, simply slip into any of these darling little nothings

Sweet nothing

PINK baby-doll slip (comes with panties), P1,495

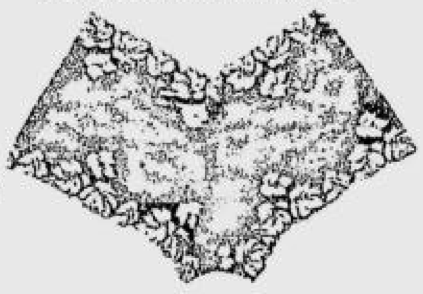
Red-hot valentine

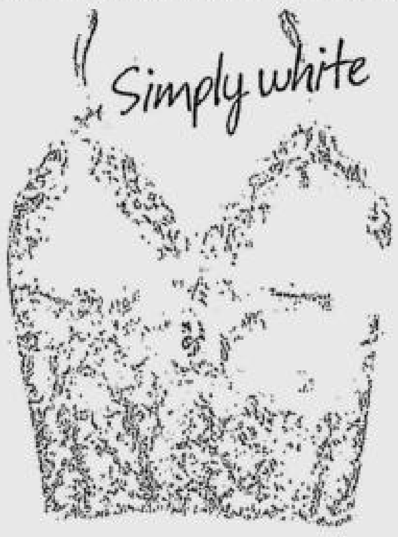
RED slip cami with black lace trim, P1,995



Purple passion

LACE push-up bra, P995 and lace boyleg panties, P345

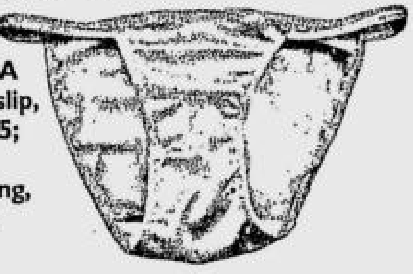




Simply white

WHITE lace cami set, P995

Animal instinct



ZEBRA print slip, P1,495; red V-string, P295

> "If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?"
>
> —Unknown

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FASHION

The Valentine gift-o-meter

True love, just bluffing or still testing the waters? The right present will say it best

AN EVENING of couple's pampering is the perfect present for your inamorata. Try the Oriental Spa at the Mandarin Hotel.

By Genea B. Padilla
Contributor

TYPICALLY, AN OCCASION such as Valentine's Day leaves most men in confusion and in various states of discomfort because it compels them to choose THE gift.

A lot depends on finding the right gift (high on the list of course will be the man's peace of mind). With the right gift, a man may spend Valentine's Day 1) alone (because he has spooked his lady and made him ran away from him), 2) enjoyably occupied or 3) happily committed for life (not always as insane as it sounds).

Other than birthdays, Valentine's gifts are the most common subjects for "gift interpretation" the choice of gift may reflect a person's affection, intentions and level of commitment. It may be taken as an indicator of the seriousness of a relationship.

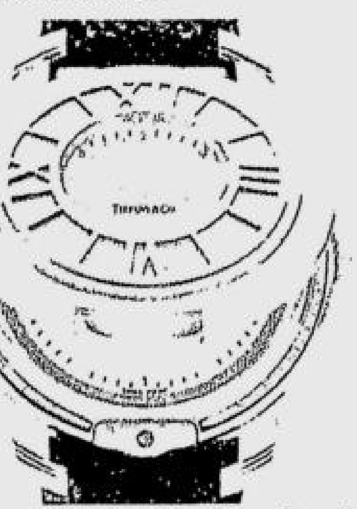
So here is a basic guide to gift-giving this Valentine's Day, whether one wants, as Miracle Max puts it, "too bluff" or "true love." We hope these suggestions lead you to a truly memorable April Fools, er, Valentine's Day!

THE VALENTINE/ G4

True love

Unless you are married, your gift choices will still likely be analyzed for "commitment" value. Having gotten to this point, you need something that is thoughtful (it shows you still listen) or items with enduring qualities which may hint at permanence).

What's safe: jewelry.



GIVE her the gift of time—literally and figuratively. Tiffany & Co. Atlas Hunter watch

falling in love
falling in love

FRAGRANCE is a fail-safe alternative. Philosophy's Falling In Love says it all.

BAG THE BAG—and the woman of your life, too! Prada tan leather handbag

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1. Text LUK4 REG <name/address/age/gender> to 2851 (Globe) 2951 (Smart) or 2851 (Sun) to register for the promo.
2. Once registered, every LUK4 request qualifies as one raffle entry. More entries means you have more chances of winning!
3. As an added bonus, every 5th LUK4 request is free!
4. Keep texting LUK4 and get a chance to win any of these prizes: 50 winners of P500 load daily, 1 winner of P10,000 cash weekly, 3 winners of iPod Videos in the Grand Draw!

MECHANICS

1. This promo is open to all Globe (Handyphone, Prepaid, TM), Smart (Gold, Buddy, Addict, & Talk 'N Text), and Sun Cellular mobile subscribers nationwide. A subscriber can download any of the LUK4 Services such as LUK4 GMIK, LUK4 BIZ <company name or business category>, LUK4 RESTO <restaurant name or cuisine> or LUK4 HELP.
2. Each SMS download will be charged at P2.50 per download.
3. Directories Philippines Corp. (DPC) will launch a mobile raffle promo to reward mobile subscribers who download LUK4 Mobile Services.
4. The mobile raffle promo will start on January 23 and end on February 19, 2006.
5. Prizes at stake are:
   - (28) Daily Draws: Fifty (50) daily winners of P500.00 worth of load per winner
   - (4) Weekly Draws: One (1) weekly winner of P10,000 cash per winner
   - (1) Grand Draw: Three (3) winners of one (1) IPOD Video (60GB) per winner
6. To join the raffle, a mobile subscriber needs to do a one-time free registration by texting LUK4 REG <name/address/age/gender> 2851 (Globe), 2951 (Smart) or 2851 (Sun). For ex. LUK4 REG JUAN DELA CRUZ/15 JP RIZAL ST., MAKATI/18/M.
7. There can only be one registered name per mobile phone number. Once a subscriber registers, no one else will be allowed to register using the same mobile phone number. In the event that the winning mobile phone number was registered under two names, the first registered name will be recognized. Subscribers may register more than once using several mobile phone numbers.
8. To get instructions through text on how to join the raffle, send LUK4 RAFFLE to 2851 (Globe), 2951 (Smart) or 2851 (Sun). Telco rates will apply for this query.
9. To earn raffle entries, a mobile subscriber must use and download LUK4 Services. Every SMS download will earn him one (1) raffle entry.
10. As an instant bonus, the user will not be charged for every 5th transaction he makes. For example, a user's 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th...nth download will be free.
11. Each LUK4 transaction, including every 5th transaction made, as referred to in item 10 above, will be assigned a raffle entry for a chance to win in the daily, weekly and grand draws. A participant can make as many LUK4 transactions to earn raffle entries.
12. If an eligible transaction is made without registering to the promo, the mobile subscriber will be reminded to do so. Registration will be a pre-requisite to qualifying for the promo.
13. There will be scheduled daily, weekly, and grand draws during the promo period. A winner who wins in any of the daily draws can still qualify to win in other succeeding daily draws provided that his/her entry qualifies for the cut off period of a particular daily draw. Similarly, a winner in any of the weekly draws can still qualify for the other succeeding weekly draws provided that his/her entry qualifies for the cut off of a particular weekly draw. However, a mobile user can only win once within a scheduled draw.
14. Entries earned daily from 12:00:00MN to 11:59:59PM of that day will qualify for the daily draw. Non-winning entries for the day will not be included in the succeeding daily draws but will be qualified for the scheduled weekly draw and grand draw, subject to the corresponding cut-off periods.
15. The following are the cut-off times for the weekly draws: Entries earned for the week from 12:00:00AM of January 23, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of January 29, 2006 (first weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of January 30, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 5, 2006 (second weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of February 6, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 12, 2006 (third weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of February 13, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 19, 2006 (fourth weekly draw) will qualify for the weekly draw. Non-winning entries for the week will not be included in the succeeding weekly draw but will be qualified for the grand draw.
16. Cut-offs and draw dates for the mobile raffle promo are as follows:

Daily Draws (7 daily draws to be done once a week)

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
Jan 23 - Jan 29, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Jan 30, 2006, 5 PM
Jan 30 - Feb 5, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 6, 2006, 5 PM
Feb 6 - Feb 12, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 13, 2006, 5 PM
Feb 13 - Feb 19, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 20, 2006, 5 PM

Weekly Draws

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
week 1: Jan 23 - Jan 29, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Jan 29, 2006	Jan 30, 2006
week 2: Jan 30 - Feb 5, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 5, 2006	Feb 6, 2006
week 3: Feb 6 - Feb 12, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 12, 2006	Feb 13, 2006
week 4: Feb 13 - Feb 19, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 19, 2006	Feb 20, 2006

Grand Draw

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
Jan 23 - Feb 19, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 19, 2006	Feb 20, 2006, 5 PM

17. Prizes are not convertible to cash but are transferable. All prizes are tax-free. Prizes unclaimed after sixty (60) days are deemed forfeited.
18. Winners will be electronically drawn by Uno Mobile, witnessed by a DPC and a DTI representative. All draws shall be made at One Hundred Services, Inc., 3/F DPC Place, 2322 Don Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo Ext.).
19. Winners will be notified by official registered mail and contacted via a call on their registered mobile phones. Only active SIM cards are eligible to win. Winners with inactive SIM cards at the time of redemption will be invalidated and another winner will be declared.
20. Winners will be asked to proceed to the DPC Head Office in 15/F DPC Place Building, 2322 Don Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo Ext.), Makati 1231, and present letter of notification sent to them plus a valid identification ID (e.g., driver's license, company ID, etc.).
21. For provincial winners DPC will deliver the prize to them via courier delivery. Upon delivery, the winner needs to show the letter of notification sent to them by DPC plus a valid identification ID.
22. The LUK4 Mobile Service is available anytime to all Globe (Handyphone, Prepaid and TM), Smart (Gold, Buddy, Talk 'N Text, and Addict Mobile) and Sun Cellular subscribers nationwide.
23. All employees of One Hundred Services, Inc. (OHSI), Directories Philippines Corporation (DPC), Avellana & Associates, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle.

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Send to: 2851 (Globe) 2951 (Smart) 2851 (Sun)
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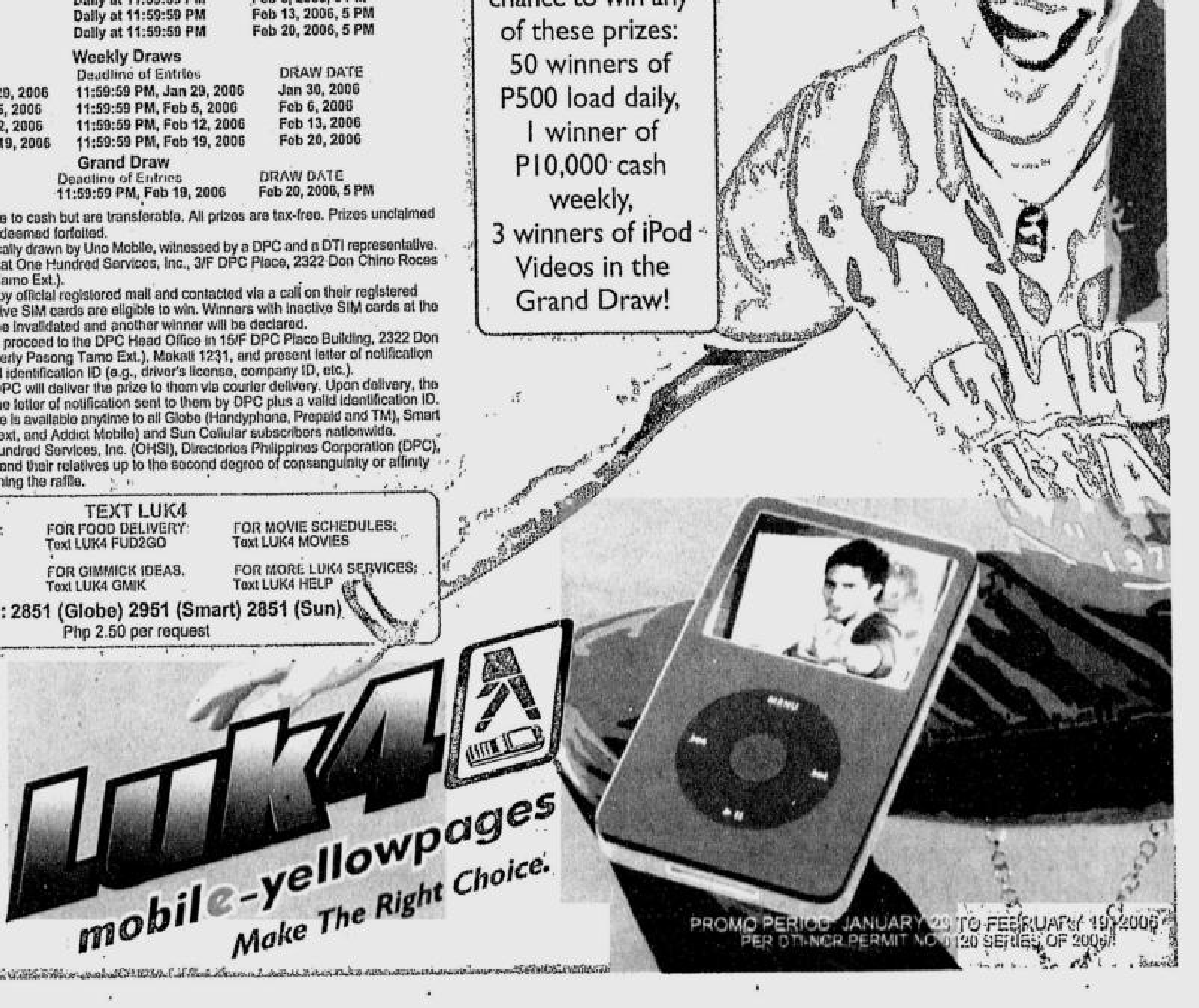

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Portraits

Valentine's is a perfect excuse to engage in the not-so-subtle rules of style seduction

GRAY dress, Rajo Laurel; set of earrings and necklace in white-gold setting with green emeralds and diamonds, Kristine's

WIFE: "*Ako* legal wife!"

MISTRESS: "So what!"

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s of a Valentine vixen

TURQUOISE ruffled top, Rajo Laurel; turquoise necklace, bracelet and ring in 18k yellow-gold setting, Kristine's

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CLOTHES AVAILABLE
IN HOUSE OF LAUREL
JEWELRY
KRISTINE'S

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

BEYOND ROSES AND ROWS of chocolate-covered cherries, real romance sparks from a black lace bra peeking out of the blouse, invisible panty lines, wearing nothing else but your husband's white button-down shirt, or better yet just a whiff of his favorite perfume (okay boys, you may drool now).

When serving or being served, never forget those subtle nuances—a wink, a slight tap on the lap or a naughty grin, signals the start of an estrogen-induced battle (growl). The rush comes in when you know that the prey has fallen for your bait, and then you go for the kill knowing you have testosterone Tommy in your hands.

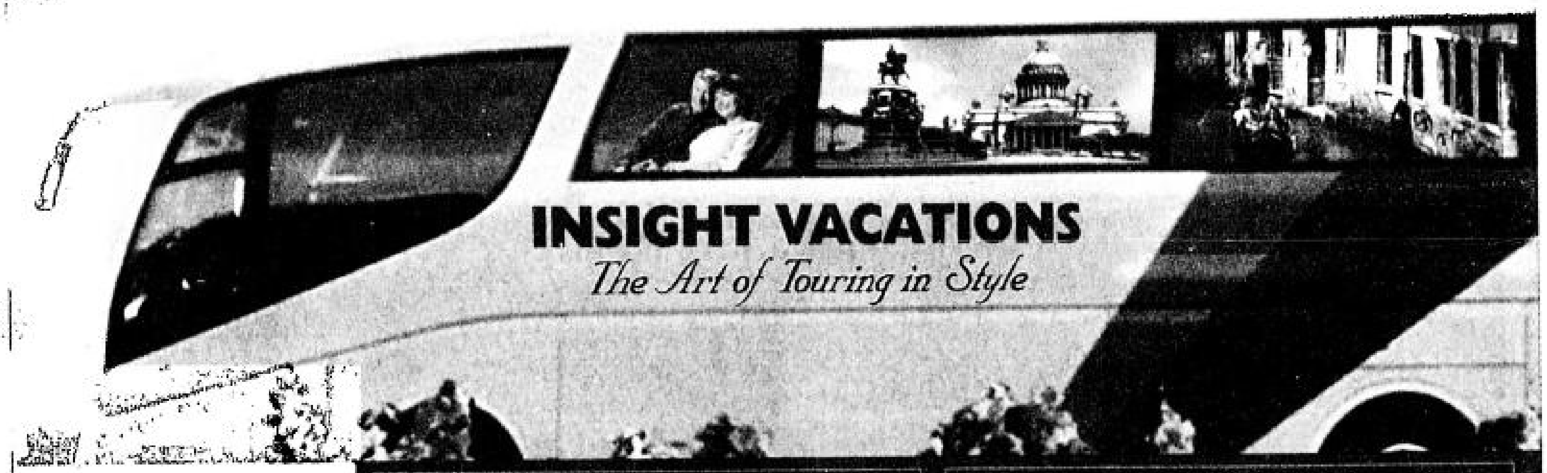
The rules of seduction have changed. The power to absorb, acquire, accumulate is upon us just like the memoirs of the blue-eyed geisha, "We must learn how stop a man in his tracks with one look... " and be able to keep them, here's how:

- **Get stoned.** While heirloom pieces given by your hubby are to be cherished and should be displayed at all times, for the va-va-voom night, leave the real jewels inside the safe and bring out your lovely body jewels instead—crème brûlée body cream, glittery oil and Swarovski skull tattoos rule.
- **Role-play.** You've exhausted your role as domestic diva; this time, wear a different hat (a feathered one perhaps?); try playing a naughty French maid, a tarty girl Friday or the all-time favorite, schoolgirl slut.
- **To tease is to please.** A hint of lace, a touch of leather or an animal-print camisole under your power suit will drive any man crazy.
- **Skin is in.** Revealing décolleté tops, backless black dress or just a sliver of silk bed sheet on top of your naked body will make any lover caress you until the morning after.
- **Hot teddy.** Dusters, old college T-shirts and loose underwear have no place inside a lover's lair. Teddies, naughty nighties and jaw-dropping lingerie are the ones that get a standing ovation (wink, wink).

So "legal wives," "number ones," "certified girlfriends," romance your partners this Valentine's Day with the help of your inner mistress. Surrender and play dress-up. Unleash the hampered soul of a love lady who dresses to please because wearing your leopard-print Natori teddy with your Gucci DMH (Do Me Heels) has never felt this good!

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

Sit Back and Relax for an Unforgettable Ride of your Life.



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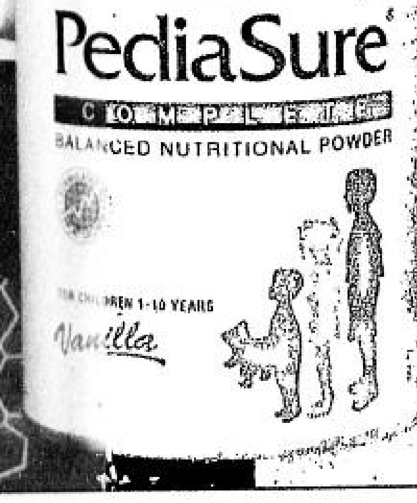


"My son Nikos likes to eat unhealthy food. With PediaSure, I'm sure he is nourished completely."

Lizanne Alcazaren
Long time PediaSure mom

My son is crazy about junk food. He hates vegetables and fruits and I worry he's not getting proper nourishment. So I gave him PediaSure to supplement his diet. Now, he no longer has to be in the hospital all the time! When it comes to my son's health, I'm sure with PediaSure!

PediaSure and Picky Eaters

Willy Pardinas
General Manager
Pediatric Nutrition Franchise
Abbott Nutrition International

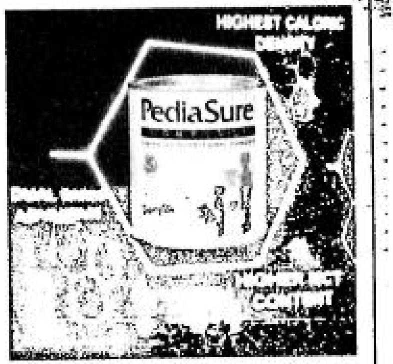
"Children who are picky eaters like Nikos are at risk of delayed physical growth and mental development. That's why they need effective nutritional supplementation to augment their food intake," says Willy Pardinas, General Manager Pediatric Nutrition Franchise, Abbott Nutrition International in Chicago.

A breakthrough in pediatric nutrition, PediaSure is complete and nutritionally-balanced milk especially formulated to meet the dietary requirements of hard-to-feed children.

PediaSure is the only milk formula clinically-proven and doctor-recommended for faster catch-up growth. It has a superior nutrient profile of 27 vitamins and minerals plus the following unique benefits so children can get all the nutrition they need at balanced levels for optimal physical and mental growth:

Highest caloric density. A concentrated 1 kcal/ml formula provides for all the energy needs of active young kids.

All children have high energy requirements in relation to body size, as they are engaged in some form of physical activity all the time. However, they tend to be picky eaters, thus the need for high levels of calories to sustain play, learning and growth.



Dual carbohydrate advantage. A special blend of corn syrup solids and sucrose facilitates better absorption of carbohydrates.

Carbohydrates are needed to maintain healthy bodies and minds. It is the body's preferred source of fuel, even for processes involving the brain: A diet without adequate amounts of carbohydrates is a serious impediment in the total development of growing children.

Higher MCT (Medium Chain Triglycerides) fat content. Medium-chain fatty acids are absorbed in the bloodstream faster to help children build and maintain a healthy body mass.

The result: better height and weight gain for children and lesser number of sick days. They have more energy and vitality and are generally observed by friends and family to be in the pink of health.

PediaSure is ideal as a milk supplement for helping hard-to-feed children meet 100% of their recommended daily allowance. It is available in delicious vanilla and chocolate flavors and has a smooth texture that kids will surely like.

If your child is hard to feed,
growth may be at risk.
Call our nutritionists for free advice:
Monday to Friday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Metro Manila - 6890-545
Provincial Areas - 1-800-10-888-3937

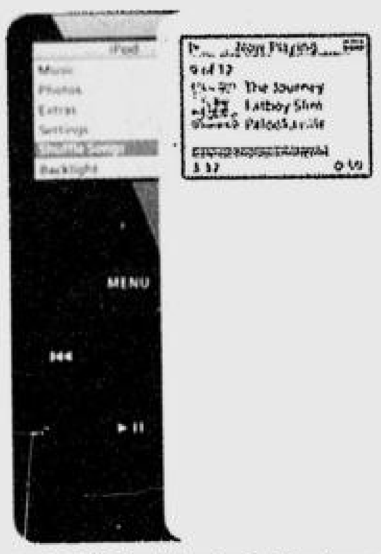
Complete and Balanced Nutrition for Picky Eaters

Abbott
A Promise for Life

The Valentine gift-o-meter

From page G1

SOMETHING light and sweet is in order, like Origins Ginger Essence.



IF YOU'RE willing to shell out some moolah, an iPod Nano loaded with her fave songs would be a hit.

Still testing the waters

You've been dating but have not yet reached the crossroads. Think sweet.

What's safe: The standard bouquet of flowers.

What's dangerous: Anything that may be misconstrued as a sign that you're committed to something you're not.

IMOGEN HEAP
speak for yourself
aqualung
strange and Beautiful
sergio mendes
timeless

AND if you're on a budget, a bunch of CDs is just as good. Imogen Heap, Aqualung and Sergio Mendes

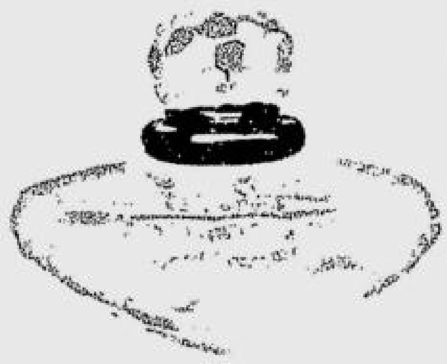
A BASKET of lush massage bars is sweet and just might get you what you want.

Too bluff

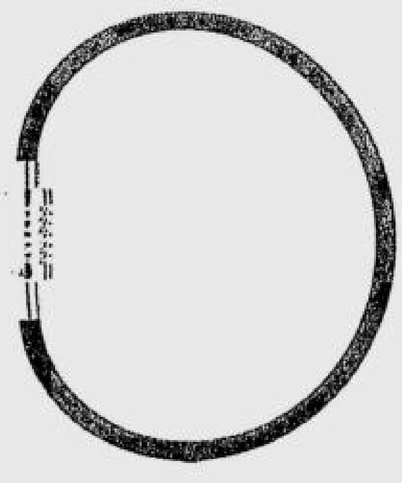
Let's be honest, most men have gone out with women (and vice versa) with just one thing in mind, fun and games. If this is where you find yourself, think fun and sexy.

What's cliché: Lingerie

What's dangerous: Almost all women love jewelry but remember to keep it light-hearted. If you must give bling, make sure it's the kind you can't wear on the left-hand ring finger.



YSL Baby Doll for your baby!



JEWELRY always works but keep it casual and safe. Paloma's groove surfer bracelet from Tiffany & Co.

IF YOU want to impress, Prada's nylon role should do the trick.

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Z520i

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See flyers for details. Promo period is from Feb. 10 to Mar. 31, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0867, Series of 2006.